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ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

No. 592.—Vol. XXIII.

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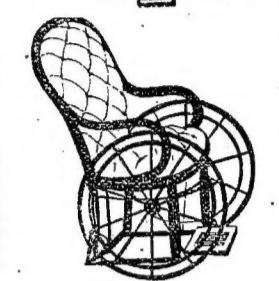


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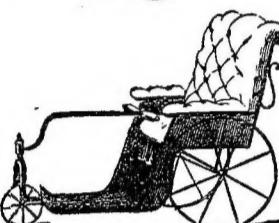


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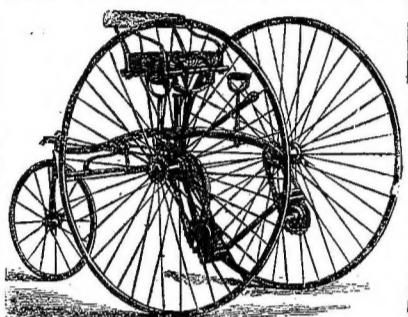
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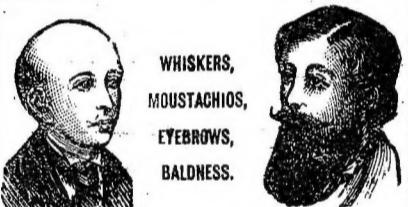


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THE GRAPHIC

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No. 592.—VOL. XXIII.
Regd. at General Post Office as a Newspaper

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1881

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THE CANDAHAR DEBATE—CHARACTER SKETCHES IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS



THE PROSPECTS OF PEACE.—On the whole the prospects of peace seem to have improved within the last week. The scheme of yielding Crete to Greece has been abandoned; but Turkey, on the other hand, has consented to give up Thessaly and a considerable part of Epirus. The Powers, without being enthusiastically in favour of this proposal, are said to have accepted it, proposing only some slight modifications. In these circumstances there ought to be no sort of doubt as to the maintenance of peace. For our part, we heartily wish that the utmost wishes of Greece were gratified; for she is, we believe, the most progressive State of South-Eastern Europe, and we are convinced that she would make a good use of any advantages which might be conferred on her. But the question at present is whether it is better to go to war in the hope of securing all her supposed rights, or to accept quietly an accession of territory which, although considerable, falls short of her demands. If she went to war, she would undoubtedly expose herself to a very serious risk; since it is at least possible that she would obtain help neither from friendly Powers nor from any of the neighbouring "nationalities." Were aid granted to her, she must be aware that on her might rest the responsibility of having stirred up a general war. No impartial friend of Greece can, then, dispute that her plain duty is to content herself for the present with any compromise that commends itself to the judgment of Europe. In the event of her being unreasonable, the Powers would be perfectly justified in compelling her to refrain from war. Indeed, the European Concert would be of little service if it were incapable of preventing a small State from kindling a flame that might soon extend over half the civilised world.

THE LATEST EUROPEAN MONARCHY.—The sudden determination of the Roumanian Legislature to elevate their Prince to regal rank and their State to the dignity of a European kingdom has surprised no one. Such an event has been regarded as a foregone conclusion ever since Prince Charles and his troops did such brave service before Plevna, and the Berlin Conclave recognised the growing importance of Roumania, and the talents of her Hohenzollern Hospodar, by according complete independence to the Princedom, and freeing it from the last links of Ottoman suzerainty. Roumania, now a State more than four times the size of Belgium, and with a well-trained army double that of King Leopold, must henceforth be regarded as a factor of some weight in Eastern Europe, more especially as she practically controls an extensive portion of one of the greatest waterways of the Continent. The material claims of Roumania to become a Monarchy are thus amply sufficient, but the Roumanians must remember that their enhanced dignity will also bring with it greater moral responsibility. What is pardonable in a petty State would be intolerable in a country which now claims to rank with the European Powers. Having shown herself capable of waging a successful war, Roumania must now prove that she can hold her own in those arts of peace which are needed to bring prosperity to any kingdom. Bucharest should imitate Paris in something more than its boulevards and *cafés*, and if the Roumanians must take pattern by their favourite models the French, they had better emulate the Gallic industry than, as hitherto, its frivolity. The Boyars will have to learn thrift; while education and a spirit of religious tolerance must be widely inculcated into the peasantry if they are to be elevated to the status of the German or Belgian humbler classes. That Prince Charles will do his best his past career leaves no room for doubt, but his task will be a heavy one, for in placing a crown on his head the Roumanians have no idea of enhancing his authority, and the difficulty with which the Powers effected the enfranchisement of the Jews demonstrates only too clearly that the Roumanians are not easily persuaded into undertaking internal reforms. That the various Powers of Europe will recognise Prince Charles's new dignity is certain. To Turkey the fact of Roumania being a Kingdom or Principality, as long as she is independent, is of no consequence, while the smaller States, and Servia in particular, will be delighted, as affording a precedent for themselves by and by. Russia, perhaps, will feel some small jealousy at her *protégé* so completely emancipating herself from Muscovite tutelage, but it will be in Austria that the event will cause the greatest satisfaction, as she has long felt the want of a trustworthy barrier between Russia and the Danube.

TRANSVAAL AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.—Considerable irritation has been caused, even among ardent supporters of the Government, by the surrender of Potchefstroom. This is only one of a good many incidents which have proved that the Boers, although a brave people, are anything but scrupulously honourable. If their conduct is censured here, it is of course resented with tenfold bitterness by the English colonists of South Africa. The present temper of these colonists is, it seems to us, a matter which ought to engage the very serious attention of the authorities at home. On the whole, the British people appear to have approved of the conclusion of peace, their principal feeling being astonishment that a Government which included Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright should ever have begun the war.

The subject is, however, looked at from a very different point of view by our kinsfolk "on the spot." They consider that the English name has been humiliated, and that our supremacy has received a shock from which it will with difficulty recover. In the circumstances this is natural enough, and the prevailing sentiment is intensified by the boastful spirit of those by whom we have been beaten. However much the conduct of the mother country may be deplored, we are not likely to hear of a movement for independence either in Natal or in Cape Colony; but nothing is more probable than that the discontent which has been excited should lead to trouble between the Transvaal and our colonies. In any case of dispute which may arise the latter will be keenly sensitive, and it may be expected that they will always insist on their rights with more than sufficient emphasis. If these facts are not duly attended to in the further proceedings which have to be taken, the chances are that the peace which has been hastily patched up will not be of long duration.

ARMY DISCIPLINE.—The decision of the Government to abolish flogging in the Army will be warmly welcomed by people in general, although in military circles the advisability of the measure is widely questioned, one authority even prophesying in the House that we shall have to return to the boot and thumbscrew for punishments. Similar predictions—if we remember rightly—were uttered when the use of the lash was restricted to offences punishable with death; but, as was clearly manifested on Monday evening, they have been completely falsified by the result, the discipline of the Army having improved rather than deteriorated. By civilians the lash is regarded as a relic of a barbaric age, useful to chastise dastardly garotters or inhuman wife-beaters, but as a punishment only to be awarded to the most debased criminals who, having lost all sense of moral persuasion, can only be cured by physical torture. A whipped dog is a term of the greatest possible reproach, while to horsewhip a man is an insult immeasurably greater than to knock him down with your fist. Thus it is stated that the idea of being subject to corporal punishment has greatly deterred many men from enlisting who otherwise would gladly have joined the ranks. Moreover it is pointed out that, now that a better class of men are being attracted to the Army by the short-service system, there is not that *raison d'être* for the maintenance of so degrading a punishment as in former days. Be this as it may, we cannot congratulate Mr. Childers on the alternative punishments which are proposed. To drag a man at a cart's tail is a return to a punishment as old if not as barbarous as the boot and thumbscrew, while we doubt whether any officer would care to compel a soldier to march under a heavy burden in the rigours of an Indian summer. The third alternative is—death—a Draconian penalty which deprives an army in the field of the services of a soldier who, though a scamp in other ways, is probably a good man to fight. Altogether the question of military punishment is an exceedingly difficult one. Discipline must be maintained, and there are certain human beings, like certain quadrupeds, who can only be brought to reason by the lash; but, as these are the exception rather than the rule, perhaps it is better to err on the side of humanity, and to relegate the cat to the oblivion to which the boot and thumbscrew have been committed, and where, with all due deference to Sir John Hay, they are likely to remain.

THE STRUGGLE WITH SOCIALISM.—Prince Bismarck is said to be making efforts to induce the various Governments of Europe to enter into a sort of league against the revolutionary elements which are at present causing so much alarm. It is improbable that his efforts will be successful. England, at least, could not associate herself with any such enterprise; and France, although willing to deal sternly with those who offer direct incitements to violence, has no wish apparently to step beyond the limits already prescribed by her laws. At home, however, Prince Bismarck will probably manage to secure the adoption of even more severely repressive measures than have hitherto been accepted by the Reichstag. The assassination of Alexander II. has created a deeper impression in Germany than in any other country; and Liberals and Conservatives are united in believing that a resolute attempt must be made to crush the Socialist agitation. The Germans ought, of course, to be the best judges of what is necessary for their national safety; but we cannot help doubting whether they are on the right track in appealing more and more to force. After all, the Socialists, notwithstanding their extravagance, point to genuine grievances. It is true, as they allege, that the industrial energies of the country are paralysed by an overgrown military system; that the people are opposed by a load of taxation which is heavier than they can bear; and that the existing Parliamentary institutions do not afford a sufficient outlet for the expression of popular feeling. It seems to be questionable whether the power of the police should be increased before such matters as these have received proper attention.

ENGLISH AND FRENCH WORKMEN.—M. Louis Blanc, who from long residence in England has formed a better estimate of British life and character than the majority of his countrymen, has been holding up the English system of short working hours as a model to the French Assembly in a speech advocating a ten hours' labour Bill. An English labourer, he stated, with better husbanded strength could

produce as much in thirty-six hours as a Frenchman in double that time. Admitting that this is true, we believe that such is due rather to a difference in temperament than to the effect of shorter hours. All those who have transacted business on the Continent, not merely at Paris but at Berlin and Vienna, are well aware that, while the nominal hours of work are long when compared to those in England, in commercial houses as well as factories, the time expended in actual labour is not so very overwhelming. To begin with, the mid-day meal frequently occupies two hours in place of one, while countless moments are wasted in rolling cigarettes, and in that gossip which is so constant and irrepressible across the Channel. The truth is that other Europeans take life much easier than ourselves, who are only excelled in the speed with which we despatch all kinds of business by our American cousins. The average Englishman feels that "business is business"; he knows that a certain amount of work has to be done, and strives to finish it as quickly as possible, so that—to speak in schoolboy fashion—his task at an end he may go out to play. With the Frenchman as a rule this is different. He makes the business part of his life pleasurable as well as useful, and alternates items of the latest political and social gossip with his business conversation in a leisurely, comfortable fashion. This habit permeates through every class, from the Minister to the bricklayer, and although the latter certainly cannot perform his functions literally over cigarettes and coffee, it is a question whether even if M. Louis Blanc succeeds in reducing his hours of labour, such a measure would induce him for the future to lay a hundred bricks where he now lays fifty. An ingrained characteristic of a nation is not so easily changed. And after all we are not so sure that the high-pressure system is the best. We have certainly more leisure than our neighbours, but does that compensate for the terrible wear and tear involved in always striving to compress the greatest possible amount of work in the smallest possible space of time? Are we not burning the candle too fast?

MR. CARLYLE AND HIS FRIENDS.—It is stated that letters addressed by Mr. Carlyle to some of the persons whom he attacks in his "Reminiscences" are about to be published by their friends and descendants. We are glad to hear this, and hope that the report will be confirmed. The "Reminiscences" contain many passages of profound interest, and we have no doubt that they will be read with admiration when some of his more solid works are forgotten. Still, it must be admitted, even by Mr. Carlyle's warmest admirers, that a painful impression is produced by the hard and uncharitable temper in which he judges many persons with whom he formerly lived on terms of intimate friendship. We are convinced that these judgments do not fairly represent his opinions and feelings. They were expressed at a time when he was driven almost to despair by grief and ill health; and the chances are that if, as was at one time proposed, the essays had been printed during his lifetime he would have eliminated or modified many phrases that now give just offence. Mr. Froude certainly cannot be congratulated on the manner in which he discharged the task entrusted to him. He had full power to deal with the papers as he pleased, and ought unquestionably to have omitted everything that seemed likely to cause unnecessary distress. It is to be hoped that he will be rather more cautious in his use of the mass of documents which are still at his disposal.

FIRE IN THEATRES.—The destruction of the Opera House at Nice, with the loss of more than sixty lives, has once again directed attention to the condition of our own theatres, and the risk that an audience would incur in the event of a conflagration breaking out in any metropolitan playhouse. Numerous suggestions have been revived and discussed, from the iron curtain (adopted, we believe, in some houses) to a method by which the auditorium could be converted into a huge shower bath; but the chief point of anxiety has been the means of egress, by which a panic-stricken audience would be enabled to quit the theatre without the dread of such a terrible catastrophe as has occurred at Nice. Since the report of the Select Committee of 1877, as the Home Secretary stated in the House on Tuesday, the theatres have been periodically inspected with a view to see that proper provision for such an emergency is made, and it is true that the passages to the stalls are no longer blocked as heretofore, and that extra doors of exit have been provided. These doors, however, though duly labelled, "To be opened in case of necessity," are unknown to nine hundred and ninety-nine people out of a thousand, and in all probability would be ignored or forgotten in the terror of a panic. What is wanted is not merely that proper and ample means of egress should be afforded, but that all doors or passages leading to the street should be fully made known to the audience. Surely this could be managed by opening them at the close of the performance, so that in going out people may learn for themselves the various exits. Such a course might possibly take up the time of a few attendants, but surely no right-minded manager would allow this to weigh with him for a moment against the lives and safety of the hundreds who visit his place of entertainment nightly. In all new theatres, we are told, the most stringent measures have been taken to insure the escape of persons from fire, but our remarks refer to several of the older houses, which, to judge from our own experience of the delay in getting out on an ordinary evening, would be little better than death traps in the event of a panic.

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TYPES OF FEMALE BEAUTY,

ILLUSTRATED BY THE FOLLOWING ENGLISH AND FRENCH ARTISTS—

P. H. Calderon, R.A., Frank Dicksee, A.R.A., Arthur Hopkins, Sir F. Leighton, R.A., G. D. Leslie, R.A., Edwin Long, A.R.A., F. R. Morris, A.R.A., C. E. Perugini, Marcus Stone, A.R.A., George A. Storey, A.R.A., L. Alma-Tadema, R.A., J. J. Tissot.

Jules Goupi (Chevalier of the Legion of Honour); Paul Baudry (Commander of the Legion of Honour, Member of the Institut); Gustave Jacquet (Chevalier of the Legion of Honour); Henri Levy (Chevalier of the Legion of Honour); Pierre Auguste Cot (Chevalier of the Legion of Honour); Carolus Duran (Officer of the Legion of Honour).

ALSO.

"DYING TO SAVE THE QUEEN'S COLOURS,"
THE DEATH OF LIEUTENANTS MELVILLE AND COGHILL, 24TH REGT.
AN EPISODE IN THE BATTLE OF INANDLWANA,

Painted by Mr. C. E. FRIPP, Special Artist to "The Graphic" during the whole of the Zulu Campaign.

There is also exhibited a choice selection of ORIGINAL WATER-COLOUR and BLACK and WHITE DRAWINGS, the Engravings from which have from time to time appeared in "The Graphic."

THE GALLERY IS OPEN DAILY FROM TEN TILL SIX.

Admission, including Illustrated Catalogue, ONE SHILLING.

NOTICE.—The Half-Sheet this week, though delivered in the middle of the Paper, must be placed for binding between pages 324 and 333.



LYCEUM.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. HENRY IRVING.—THE CUP, THE CORSICAN BROTHERS, Alfred Tennyson's Tragedy, THE CUP, at 7.45. Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. Irving, Mr. Terriss, THE CORSICAN BROTHERS at 9.30. Mr. Irving, CORSICAN BROTHERS.

THE BELLE'S STRATAGEM, April 16th.—This Theatre will be closed in Passion week until Saturday, April 6th, when will be presented Mrs. Cowley's comedy, THE BELLE'S STRATAGEM. Durecourt, Mr. Irving; Letitia Hardy, Miss Ellen Terry; Miss Sophie Young, Mr. Howe, Mr. Te riss, Mr. Piner, Mr. Elwood, &c. Preceded by Tennyson's Tragedy, THE CUP. Seats can now be booked.—LYCEUM.

THE BACH CHOIR.—Patron, HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN. Conductor, Mr. OTTO GOLDSCHMIDT.—SECOND CONCERT, WEDNESDAY EVENING, April 6th, at 8 o'clock. Handel's Alexander's Feast; Sanctus in D (J. Seb. Bach); Requiem (Johannes Brahms). Principal vocalists—Mrs. Osgood, Mr. Edward Lloyd, and Mr. Santley. Stalls, 2s. 6d.; reserved, 7s. 6d.; unreserved, 7s. 6d.; gallery, 2s. Stanley Lucas, Weber, and Co., 8s. New Bond Street; usual Agents; and Austin's Ticket Office, St. James's Hall.

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.—69th Season.—Patroness, HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.—Conductor, Mr. W. G. CUSINS.—FOURTH CONCERT, THURSDAY NEXT, April 7.—Repetition et "Romeo et Juliette" Symphony (Berlioz) with Orchestra and Choir of 28 Performers. Miss Hope Glenn, Mr. Frank Boyle, Signor Gliberti, Beethoven's First Pianoforte Concerto, Madame Montigny-Remaury, Overtures, "Figaro" (Mozart), "Tannhauser" (Wagner), and Vocal Selections from Schubert, Mendelssohn, and Beethoven. Mr. Sims Reeves, Tickets, 2s. 6d., 8s. 6d., 5s., 4s., and 2s. 6d., of Stanley Lucas, Weber, and Co., Bond Street, and at St. James's Hall, and at the usual Agents. Admission 1s.

SOUTH LONDON CHORAL ASSOCIATION, ST. JAMES'S HALL (Third Season).—The First of Three Subscription Concerts will take place at ST. JAMES'S HALL on TUESDAY EVENING NEXT, April 5, at eight o'clock. Tickets, 7s. 6d., 4s., 3s., 2s., and 1s., at the usual Agents, and at Austin's Office, St. James's Hall.

SOUTH LONDON CHORAL ASSOCIATION.—The FIRST CONCERT this Season will take place at ST. JAMES'S HALL, TUESDAY EVENING NEXT, at 8 o'clock. Vocalists, Mrs. Osgood, Madame Bolingbroke, and Mr. Joseph Maas, Violin, M. Sainton, Conductor, Mr. Leonard C. Venables, Accompanist, Mr. W. H. Harper.

MR. and MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT. CLOSED. Will Re-open Easter Monday, at 3 and 8, with a New First Piece, MANY HAPPY RETURNS, by Gilbert A. Beckett, and Clement Scott. Music by Lionel Benson. A New Musical Sketch, OUR INSTITUTE, by Mr. Corney Grin, and a New Second Part, ALL AT SEA, by Arthur Law. Music by Corney Grin. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, at 8; Thursday and Saturday, at 3.—ST. GEORGE'S HALL, Langham Place. Admission 1s., 2s.; Stalls, 3s., 5s. No fees.

THE ANNUAL SPRING EXHIBITION OF HIGH-CLASS PICTURES by BRITISH and FOREIGN ARTISTS, including Professor Leopold Carl Müller's Picture, "An Encampment Outside Cairo," is NOW OPEN at ARTHUR TOOTH & SONS' GALLERY, 5, Haymarket. Admission One Shilling.

THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF CABINET PICTURES by ARTISTS of the BRITISH AND FOREIGN SCHOOLS is NOW OPEN at THOMAS MCLEAN'S GALLERY, 7, Haymarket (next to the Theatre). Admission, including Catalogue, 1s.

SAVOY HOUSE.—GALLERY OF ENGRAVINGS by the GREAT MASTERS. Also Specimens of Reproductions in Chromo-lithography and Colour Printing, from the Paintings of the English, French, German, and Continental Schools. Catalogues post-free on application to the Manager, at the Gallery, Savoy House, 115 and 116, Strand, London, W.C.

DORÉS GREAT WORKS, "ECCE HOMO" ("Full of Divine dignity," *The Times*) and "THE ASCENSION," with "CHRIST LEAVING THE PRÆTORIUM," "CHRIST ENTERING JERUSALEM," and all his other great pictures at the DORE GALLERY, 35, New Bond Street. Daily 10 to 6. One Shilling.

BRIGHTON.—PULLMAN DRAWING-ROOM CAR TRAINS leave Victoria for Brighton every Week-day at 10 a.m. and 4.30 p.m., and Brighton for Victoria at 9.45 a.m. and 5.45 p.m.; also from Victoria on Sundays and Good Friday at 10.45 a.m., and from Brighton at 8.30 p.m.

EVERY SUNDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY.—A Cheap First Class Train from Victoria at 10.45 a.m., calling at Clapham Junction and Croydon. Day Return Tickets, 1s.

THE GRAND AQUARIUM AT BRIGHTON.—EVERY SATURDAY. Cheap First Class Trains from Victoria at 10.55 and 1.50 a.m., and London Bridge at 9.30 a.m. and 12 noon, calling at Clapham Junction and Croydon. Day Return Fare—1st Class, Half-a-guinea (including admission to the Aquarium and the Royal Pavilion Picture Gallery, Palace, and Grounds), available to return by any Train the same day, except the 4.45 p.m. Pullman Car Train. (By Order) J. P. KNIGHT, General Manager.

THE "GRAPHIC" SCHOOL OF ENGRAVING ON WOOD.—Some years ago a belief prevailed that before long wood-engraving would be superseded by various less costly processes. This belief, without doubt, deterred persons from embarking in a profession which they feared might without long prove unremunerative. Experience has shown that these fears were baseless. Wood-engraving holds, and is likely to continue to hold, its own against all other competitors. But, meanwhile, there is a great scarcity at the present time of good engravers; and unless a practical effort is made to attract clever students into the profession, the most artistic work will fall into the hands of foreigners. For some time past the Proprietors of *The Graphic* have experienced an increasing difficulty in obtaining the assistance of high-class engravers, and they have therefore determined to form a School of Engraving for male students, in which they will be instructed for a term of five years. No premium will be required; but the candidates will be selected according to the merits of their drawings submitted, and after selection they will still have a fortnight's trial before being definitely accepted. After the first year, the students will be paid a sum (according to progress made) varying from £12 in the second, to £75 in the fifth year. The hours of attendance will be from 9 A.M. until 6 P.M., with an hour allowed for dinner; but students regularly attending evening classes at the Government Schools of Design will be allowed to leave at 5 P.M. Intending candidates must send in specimens of their drawings, stating whether they are original or copies, also age of candidate, addressed to "The Manager of *The Graphic*, 190, Strand, W.C., and marked Drawings for Competition."

THE NEW VOLUME

(No. XXII.) of

THE GRAPHIC

IS NOW READY,

Containing the Numbers issued from July 1 to Dec. 31, and including the Christmas Number, with its now famous picture, "Cherry Ripe," by J. E. Millais, R.A., and over 500 illustrations of current events, original drawings, portraits of eminent persons, and copies of celebrated paintings.

A most handsome and welcome present, in blue cloth, gilt edges, 20s. It can be obtained through any Bookseller in the Kingdom.



CHARACTER SKETCHES IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

THESE sketches were taken during the recent Debate in the Upper Chamber on Lord Lytton's resolution calling in question the policy of the Government in retiring from the occupation of Candahar, which, on a division, was carried by 165 against 76, a result which, as every one knows, failed to convince the Government that they were in the wrong. The "Discontented Contests" are Lords Lytton, Wavene, Salisbury, Dunraven, and Beaconsfield; and the "Discontented Non-Contests," Lords Granville, Derby, Argyle, Northbrook, and Chelmsford. On the first night the Wool-sack was occupied in the absence of the Lord Chancellor by Lord Redesdale, Chairman of Ways and Means, who of course wore no wig or official robe, while on the second night the Lord Chancellor, having partially recovered from an attack of gout, resumed his accustomed seat in all his splendour. In the Royal Pew were the Princess of Wales, the Duchess of Connaught, and the Duke and the Duchess of Teck. On the steps of the throne stood a number of Privy Councillors and ex-Ministers, whilst the gallery above it was crowded by Peeresses, conspicuous amongst whom were Lady Lytton, Lady Granville, and Lady Dunraven, who appeared to take great interest in the Debate, especially in the speeches of their respective liege lords, to which, if one might judge from the manner in which they anticipated the points, they were not then listening for the first time. The Duke of Cambridge attended the whole Debate, but took no part in the speaking or voting. The Diplomatic circle was largely represented, prominent amongst the Ambassadors being the representatives of France, Germany, Russia, and Austria. On the front Episcopal Bench sat the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and the Bishops of London and Peterborough, the last mentioned of whom was provided with a huge gingham umbrella, as though apprehensive of a storm.

him marched a man-at-arms in sable attire, and bearing a mourning standard of black silk. The Czar's charger was another feature of the procession. The Czar's foreign decorations, fifty-three in number, were carried on golden cushions, followed by his Russian medals, and then came the crowns of the Kingdoms of Georgia, Jauris, Siberia, Poland, Astrakan, and Kasan, with the Imperial globe, sceptre, and crown. Next marched a multitude of ecclesiastics, and after them came the gorgeously-gilt funeral car, drawn by eight led horses. At each corner sat four of the late Czar's *aides-de-camp*, the cords of the pall being held by eight Generals and eight Major Generals, by whose sides walked sixty liveried pages with burning torches. Immediately behind the hearse and alone walked the new Czar in a full-dress uniform of the Preobrazenski regiment of the Guard—in which also his father was to lie in state. Next followed his brothers and the other Princes then in St. Petersburg—including the Duke of Edinburgh; and a multitude of Ministers, of generals, and the suites of the foreign Princes, this portion of the procession being practically ended by a mourning coach with the Czarina and her children, and a second, containing the Duchess of Edinburgh and the Grand Duchesses. On arriving at the Cathedral the Czar and his brothers themselves lifted the coffin, and bore it to the catafalque, preceded by the Metropolitan and the clergy. The coffin lid was then taken off, and the Service for the Dead was impressively performed. This over the Czar, kneeling on one knee, kissed his dead father's hand, the Empress and the Duchess of Edinburgh following his example. The Imperial Family then quitted the church, and the members of the Diplomatic Body having advanced and gazed upon the features of the dead monarch, the ceremony of the day was over.

THE IMPERIAL HERALS

ON the day before the procession the dates of the ceremony and the funeral were announced to the city by two mounted heralds, clad in black tunics, embroidered with silver eagles on the breast and back. They were accompanied by two mounted secretaries, and an escort of Life Guards. All the public places were visited in turn, and the proclamation made to the assembled crowds.

THE CHAPLAIN OF THE FLEET

THIS NEW STORY, by Messrs. Besant and Rice, illustrated by Mr. Charles Green, is continued on page 325.

THE CARNIVAL AT NICE

THERE is something inexpressibly sad in contemplating this scene of gaiety, which was sketched only a few days before the fatal fire which has plunged so many families at Nice in mourning. The Carnival this year seems to have been exceptionally brilliant. Our artist writes: "Anything more graceful can hardly be imagined than the Battle of the Flowers on the Promenade des Anglais, where mimic warfare is carried on with bouquets, and the various carriages which have been florally decorated are submitted to the judgment of a jury. The phaeton in the foreground belonged to an English lady, and was lined with rose-colour and studded with camellias. The same flowers ornamented the umbrella, which was also red, while a pleasing contrast was afforded by a splendid white horse. The bouquets of flowers at every turn and the handsome toilettes of the ladies made a most pleasing and picturesque scene. The Carnival procession proper was postponed for a day owing to the rain, and defiled before the jury on Monday, the 2nd ult."

"There was the usual mass of masked oddities waging battle with *confetti*, and chaffing and being chaffed with the greatest good humour. First came the cars, with the symbolical figures; next, the costume groups; and then a crew of merrie masquers on foot. Foremost in my sketch I have placed the car of the 'Mar Orchestra,' which gained the first prize, and next the second prize, the 'Pomegranate.' The consolation prizes were awarded to a rural scene and the 'Butcher's Car.' The Captive Balloon obtained another prize. The first and second prizes for the equestrian groups were carried off respectively by the 'Return from Suez' and the 'Christy's,' an imitation of English negro minstrels. For groups on foot the first prize was awarded to the 'Corps de Ballet,' composed of men who from their stature were well qualified to enlist as Horse Guards. I also depict 'The Bathers,' the 'Hen and Her Chickens,' the latter just issuing out of the egg—a very amusing group. For solitary figures the first prize was carried off by 'The Serpent Charmer,' while the 'Mayonnaise' and the 'Gurnet Fishing' were exceedingly droll."

Amongst other noticeable masquers were the Englishman fishing with a rod—he had enormous legs; the frog playing the organ; a rat in a Dutch cheese; a rabbit nibbling a carrot; a sapper, half angel, half soldier, portrayed by a man seven feet high at least. A very amusing group was formed by a number of peasants tossing a lay figure in a blanket. The whole scene was most lively and amusing, but the rain came down in the evening, and spoilt half the fun, utterly preventing the illuminations. Next day, however, the sun came out in earnest, and the masquers, defiling before the jury in the Place de Prefecture, those to whom prizes had been adjudged were awarded banners, on the subsequent presentation of which the prizes were handed to them. In the evening the illuminations were really magnificent, and the *confetti* flew about like thick hail in every direction.

THE SWAN ELECTRIC LIGHT

See page 327.

THE LAND AGITATION IN IRELAND

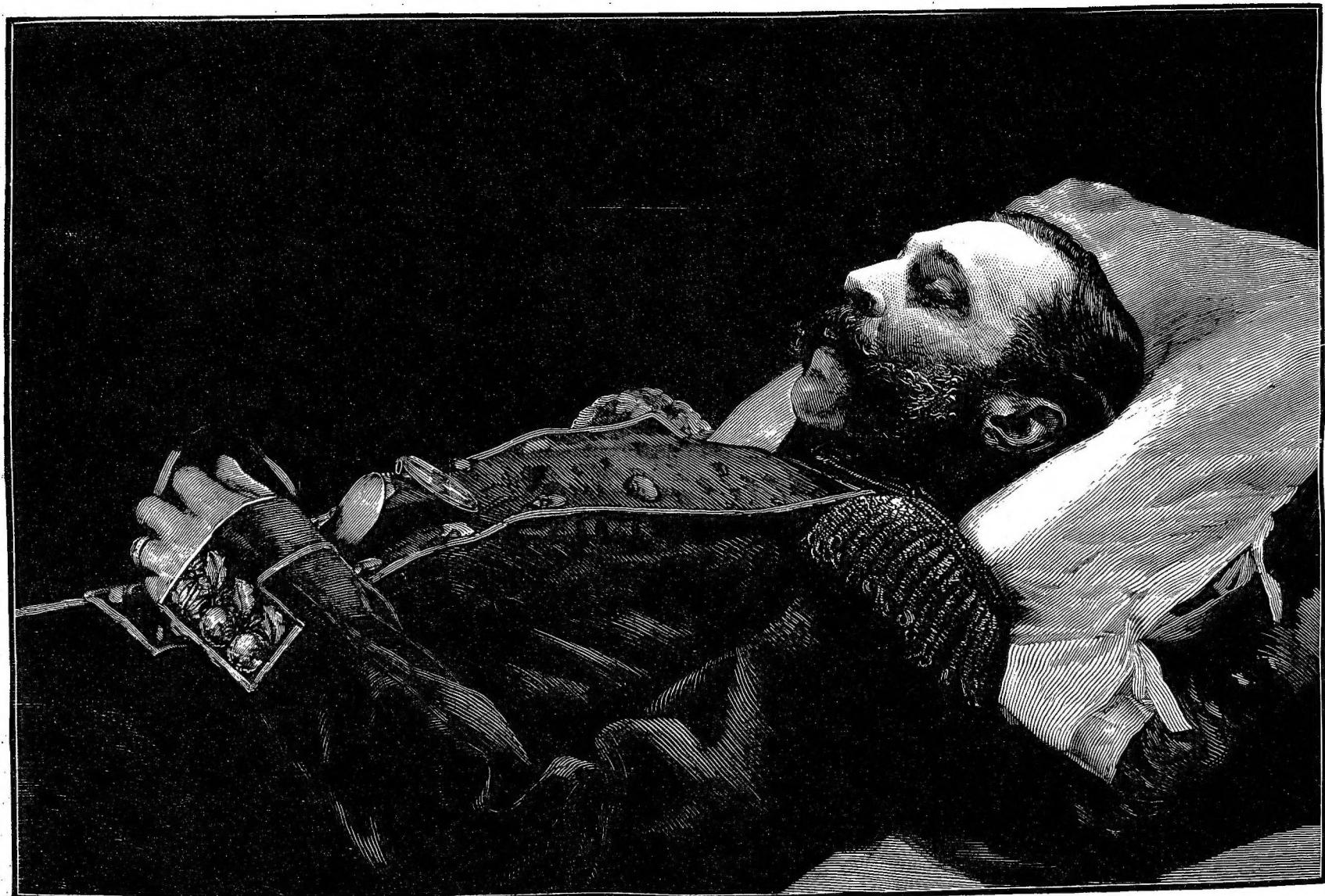
THE effect of the Coercion Act is visible in the daily increasing quietness of the country and the almost entire cessation of agrarian outrages. Mr. Dillon and one or two other of the more prominent leaders of the agitation continue, however, to make violent speeches, and to denounce the cowardice and injustice of the Government. Speaking on Monday at Thurles, Mr. Dillon condemned what he termed the "infamous system of jury-packing," and said that if the lives and liberties of the people were left to Chief Justice May and Mr. Justice Fitzgerald, the Irish would compare unfavourably with the subjects of the Czar of Russia. On Saturday Miss Parnell spoke at an open-air meeting at Kilmallock, where the mob made a violent attack upon a sub-inspector of police and a military officer, who were obliged to take refuge in a house, whether their assailants would have followed, had it not been for the determined stand made outside the door by four or five clergymen, who used their fists as well as their tongues in persuading the roughs to withdraw. Of our illustration of Kilmainham Gaol, Dublin, it is only needful to say that the building is an ordinary criminal prison, part of which has been fitted up for the accommodation of persons arrested under the Coercion Act, who, as we have already stated, are allowed many comforts and privileges not enjoyed by the convict inmates. For some time they were supplied with food at the expense of the Land League, but last week they agreed to take the prison fare, so as to relieve the fund from the burden of their support. On St. Patrick's Eve and the night of St. Patrick's Day a large number of bands assembled outside the gaol and serenaded the Land League prisoners, for whom frequent cheers were given by the bystanders.

SNOW BLOCK ON THE HIGHLAND RAILWAY

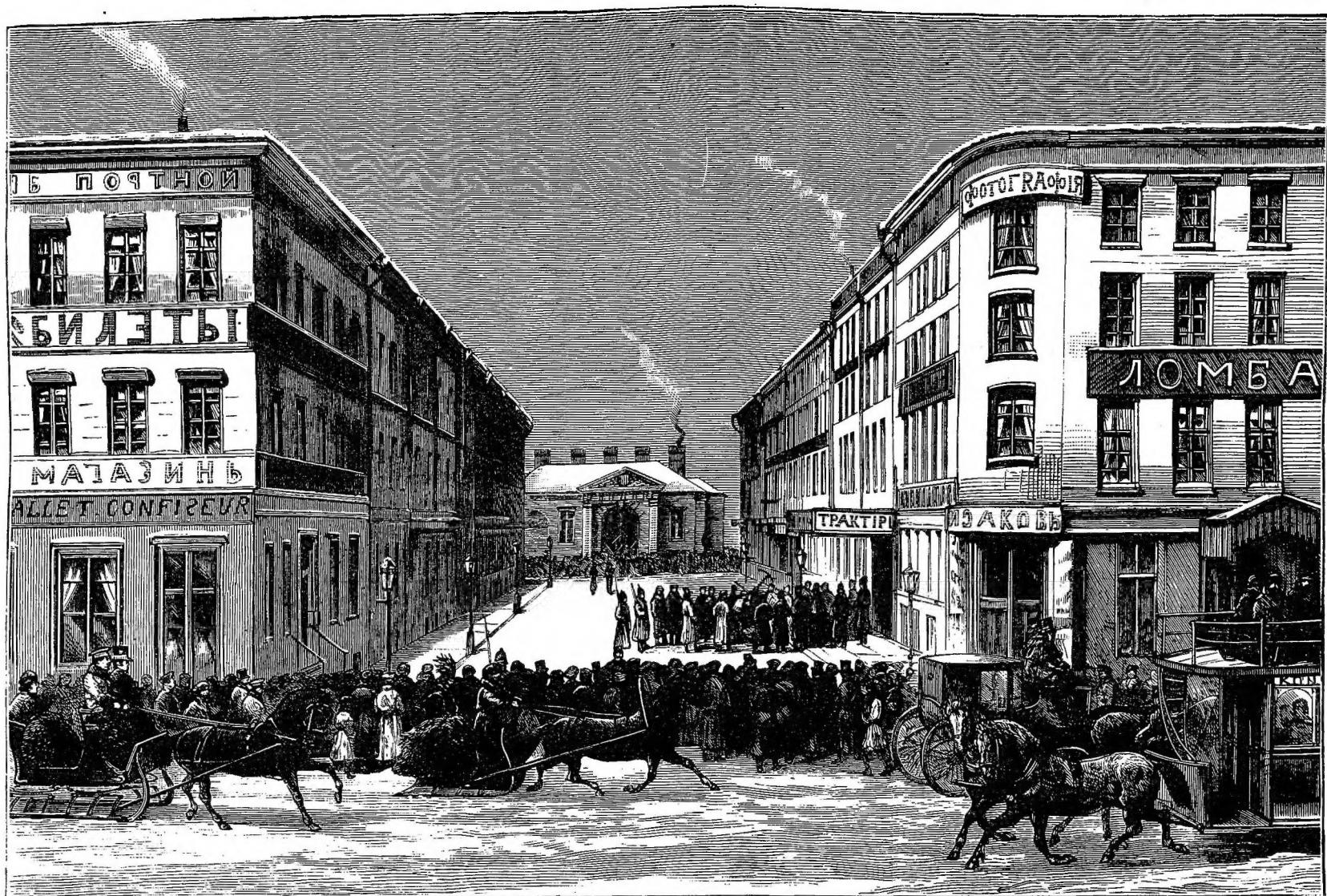
ALTHOUGH exceedingly severe weather has this year been experienced throughout the southern half of Great Britain, the frosts, gales, and snowstorms which have visited all parts of Scotland have been of still greater intensity and duration, and some idea of their effect may be gathered from our engravings, which are from photographs by Mr. D. Johnstone, of Forres, N.B., taken during



THE IMPERIAL STUDY IN THE WINTER PALACE, WHERE THE LATE CZAR DIED



THE LATE ALEXANDER II., FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN SOON AFTER DEATH



DIGGING OUT THE MINE DISCOVERED IN THE MALAJA SADOWAJA STREET, NEWSKI PROSPECT, ST. PETERSBURG



SHRINE ERECTED ON THE SPOT WHERE THE ASSASSINATION TOOK PLACE

THE LATE CZAR OF RUSSIA

the great snowstorm which continued from the 4th to the 6th of last month. On several lines of railway the traffic was greatly impeded, and trains were embedded for many hours, and on the Highland Railway three trains were actually buried beneath fifteen feet of snow. This was the case with a cattle train, the animals dying from the combined effects of cold and suffocation; and also with a relief train, which, although drawn by three powerful engines with a snow plough in front, got firmly embedded in a huge drift, and was eventually completely buried by the snow which subsequently fell. The engine drivers and workmen aboard these trains suffered greatly from exposure and want of food during the many hours of their imprisonment, but all were ultimately rescued, though in a very exhausted condition. The snow block extended for a distance of over four miles, its depth at some points being no less than thirty-eight feet, and the work of clearing a way for the trains occupied a staff of 1,300 workmen for five days and nights. As we write these lines news comes of another great snowfall in Scotland, with heavy drifts, on the various lines of railway. Telegraphic communication with the Shetlands has ceased for some time, and it is stated will not be resumed until the month of June.

NOTE.—We omitted to state last week that the portrait of Mr. Thomas Hughes, Q.C., was from a photograph by Mr. Charles Watkins, 1, Torriano Avenue, N.W.



THE CENSUS PAPERS which have been distributed all over the three kingdoms during the present week will be collected by the enumerators on Monday next, when all persons should make a point of having them filled up in readiness. The Corporation of London has resolved to spend £1,200 on taking an account of the day population of the City on that day.

THE EARL OF BEACONSFIELD has for some days been suffering from a severe attack of bronchial asthma, aggravated by an attack of gout. On Sunday his condition was considered to be so serious that Dr. J. Kidd remained with him all night, and since then has been in almost constant attendance upon him. On Wednesday morning Dr. Kidd had a consultation with Dr. Quain, and another at 10 p.m., after which it was announced that the patient was scarcely so well as in the morning, but the bulletin issued on Thursday stated that he had passed a quiet night and his condition was not worse. Much sympathy has been excited by the announcement of Lord Beaconsfield's illness, and the callers at Curzon Street have been very numerous. He is, however, not allowed to see any one but Viscount Barrington, who is staying in the house, and who has commands from Her Majesty to send copies of the medical bulletins to Windsor as soon as they are issued.

THE TRANSVAAL.—On Monday Lord Kimberley received a deputation from the Transvaal Independence Committee, in reply to whom he said that whatever might be the final arrangements, he was most desirous that they should be such as were reasonable to the Dutch population of the Transvaal itself; and that whatever powers were retained by us they should be of a simple, defined, and plain nature. The only object the Government had in view was the maintenance of a lasting peace in South Africa.

THE CLAIMS OF GREECE was the subject of an address delivered on Saturday at Willis's Rooms by Mr. Arthur Arnold, M.P., who contended that nothing would tend so surely to the maintenance of peace as the conveyance to Turkey of an assurance that, just as the ships of England were stationed at Marsala, Messina, Palermo, and in greater force at Naples, in 1860, so might they be found in the waters of Greece if, by a mockery and disregard of the rights of humanity, the obligations of treaty, and the deliberate opinion of Europe, war now ensued between Greece and Turkey.

THE "FREIHEIT."—A Government prosecution has been instituted against the German Socialist paper a recent number of which contained an article justifying the assassination of the late Czar of Russia, and suggesting the destruction of other sovereigns. On Wednesday four detectives paid a sudden visit to the office in Great Titchfield Street, turned out the compositors, locked up the premises, and arrested Mr. Most, the editor and proprietor, who will be charged with inciting people of a Foreign State to sedition and rebellion. It is denied that the action has been undertaken at the request of the Russian Government, who, it is stated, have not complained of the *Freiheit*, nor noticed it in any way whatever.

SUPPOSED FENIAN PLOTS.—The recent attempted outrage at the Mansion House is attributed to three Irish-Americans, two of whom have escaped across the Channel, whilst the third is thought to have started for New York in the steamer *Australia* on Friday last. The information was only received after the vessel had left the Thames, but the telegraph was put in action, and two steam-tugs put out from Falmouth to intercept her as she passed the Lizard, but the night was dark, and she was not sighted.—The discovery of a packet of twenty dynamite cartridges in a shed near Settle the other day created some alarm, but it has since been stated that they were stored there by the owner of the land, who intended to use them for blasting.—The pistol sent to the Home Secretary, when examined at the Royal Laboratory, Woolwich, proved to be loaded with nothing more deadly than charred paper.

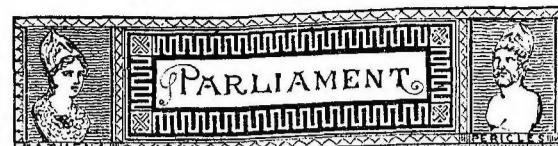
"THE NATIONAL LAND LEAGUE OF GREAT BRITAIN" is the somewhat imposing title adopted by the new political organisation, whose object is to educate public opinion in England and Scotland on the subject of the Irish Land Question. Mr. Justin McCarthy is the President, and the names of Messrs. Parnell, Biggar, Sexton, and A. O'Connor appear on the Committee.

ELECTORAL CORRUPTION.—Fresh evidence of the need of some stringent legislation against bribery and corruption is afforded by the reports of the election commissions at Macclesfield and Gloucester, the numbers of bribers and bribees in each borough being reckoned by the thousand. The *Pall Mall Gazette* points out that if the Attorney-General's Corrupt Practices Bill were made retrospective, the result so far as these two constituencies alone are concerned would be to send 7,000 electors to gaol for two years, and, in addition, to impose fines upon them to the amount of £3,500,000.

SIR CHARLES REED, M.P. for St. Ives, and Chairman of the London School Board, died on Friday last in his sixty-third year, after an illness which had only lasted some ten days. The funeral took place at Abney Park Cemetery on Wednesday, the Board Schools and Board School Offices being closed for the day; and on Thursday, at a meeting of the Board, a resolution was adopted expressing the regret of the members at the serious loss which they had sustained.

A FATAL FIRE occurred on Tuesday at a Manchester cotton warehouse, the building, seven stories high, being destroyed, with an immense stock of goods, the estimated damage being about £80,000. Three firemen were knocked down by some of the blazing cottons falling upon them. One was killed, and the two others very badly hurt.

THE TOBACCO DUTY imposed by the late Government will not be repealed at present. Such is the announcement made to the Chairman of the Tobacco Trade Association by Mr. Gladstone, who, however, reminds us of the distinction between approving an impost and being able at a given time to remove it.



THE House of Commons is still permitted to proceed on the even tenor of the way on which it was three weeks ago so suddenly launched. The Irish members have become as the Scotch members, or even less obtrusive. Mr. Parnell rarely takes his seat, and still more rarely interposes in debate. Mr. Biggar is somewhat more persistent in his attention. But his appearance is fitful, and he also refrains from taking part in debate. This abstention is marked not only in respect of discussions of resolutions and Bills. In those still recent times, which Mr. Gladstone refers to as "an evil dream," it was the cheerful custom of Irish members to load the paper with questions chiefly relating to matters of local or even family importance. For some weeks they resisted the wholesome rule of taking questions as read, and as their interrogations were as prodigious in length as they were unimportant in matter, they were thus able in a casual and apparently innocent manner to obstruct the business of Parliament. This is a playful practice they have abandoned with other and more elaborate devices. The proportion of questions now put by Irish members is exceedingly small, and those responsible for them are content to follow the example of representatives of other nationalities, and permit the question to be taken as read. Thus, not only is the business of the evening permitted to proceed without obstruction, but it is reached sometimes an hour earlier than the average of the first part of the Session. It is now no uncommon thing for questions to be disposed of by five o'clock, whereas in January and February, if the real business of the evening commenced at six o'clock, Ministers congratulated themselves on exceptionally good luck.

In the course of the current week there has been passed unnoticed through its ultimate stages a measure in respect to which, three weeks ago, extreme anxiety was felt. It will be remembered that urgency in Committee of Supply was moved by Mr. Gladstone on the particular ground of the necessity of getting the Ways and Means Bill through all its stages before the 31st March. In contravention of the Ministerial proposal with respect to urgency, Sir Stafford Northcote made an elaborate calculation showing that, by due consideration of hours and moments, together with a special sitting of the House of Lords, it would be possible to get this bill through before the close of the financial year, of whose machinery it is an integral part. With the cessation of pressure the very existence of the Ways and Means Bill has dropped out of the recollection of all but the Minister in immediate charge of it. Its very name is absent from the Parliamentary transactions of the past ten days. Any one glancing down the Orders of the Day may have perceived, first in the Commons and lastly in the Lords, a measure standing for various stages of progress under the name of the Consolidated Fund Bill. This is our old friend with a new face. Like many Peers, the Ways and Means Bill has two titles—one in popular use, and the other in legal acceptation. Just as the Duke of Argyll sits in the House of Lords, and is known in all its official procedure, as Baron Sunbridge, so the Ways and Means Bill, when it appears on the agenda of Parliament, is called the Consolidated Fund Bill. Under this latter title it has mildly meandered through the various courses that lead it to the safe haven of the Statute Book, and on Tuesday night it received the Royal assent. Many members who were present at the ceremony were doubtless ignorant of the fact that this was the identical measure touching whose fate Mr. Gladstone was a short time ago in despair, and the Leader of the Opposition could only hope to see it passed in due time by extraordinary efforts in the Commons, and the sacrifice of a Wednesday in the Lords.

On Monday, and again on Thursday, the House of Commons was occupied with another of the measures which mark a turning point in the year. This was the Mutiny Bill, which must be passed by a given day, otherwise the Army might fall asunder like a bundle of sticks with the withes suddenly cut. The Mutiny Bill is passed every year—a constitutional precaution designed in far-off times to keep the control of the Army in the hands of the Commons. In the days prior to the incursion of Parnellites, the Mutiny Bill was passed as a matter of course, often with five minutes' discussion. When the Irish Members commenced the development of their powers they practised a good deal on the Mutiny Bill, holding it in check for several days. It was on this Bill that commenced the memorable debates on flogging in the Army. It came on for Second Reading on Monday, and it was not altogether without trepidation that Ministers approached the business of the evening. The bone of contention is changed. Flogging has been abolished, and whatever opposition might come to the Bill must be looked for from the martinetts of the Army, and the implacable Conservatives, who think that whatever is right.

But Mr. Gladstone had adroitly taken advantage of an accidental circumstance in the arrangement of business. Colonel Harcourt had on the paper a resolution asking the House to pledge itself to the opinion that the maintenance of highways should in part be borne by the Imperial Exchequer. This was a matter that appealed very strongly to the Conservative side, and in arranging the business programme Mr. Gladstone had undertaken that whatever might be left on Monday night after the Second Reading of the Mutiny Bill should be devoted to Colonel Harcourt's motion. This was a bribe that proved irresistible. The county members, being also colonels of militia or holding similar warlike appointments in the other branch of the auxiliary service, felt that in descanting on the probable deterioration of the Army owing to the abolition of flogging they would be taking so much out of the time allotted to a matter of even nearer interest. Accordingly they were notably brief, reserving till Thursday the more elaborate criticism they desired to make on the proposed arrangement. Thus before eight o'clock Colonel Harcourt found his opportunity, and used it so well that when the division was called he found himself defeated by the comparatively narrow majority of 159 against 145. The Government had by the mouth of Mr. Dodson announced their desire and determination to deal with the matter in a comprehensive way at the earliest possible moment. But Mr. Gladstone, with the instinct of a Chancellor of the Exchequer, intimated that the comprehensive way more or less vaguely held in mind did not include the relief of local rates at the expense of the Consolidated Fund. The debate and division were important as eliciting opinion in the new Parliament on this familiar topic, and will probably have the effect of hastening the approach to the time when "the comprehensive scheme" should be introduced.

On Tuesday another question of great social importance came on at the instance of a private member. A dreary speech made by Mr. Ashton Dilke on the question of decimal coinage, supplemented by another in kind by Mr. Stevenson, had brought the debate dangerously near extinction by the process of exhaustion. The critical interval was, contrary to general expectation, safely bridged over, and Mr. Leathem found an opportunity of bringing on his motion condemnatory of the traffic in the sale of benefices. The member for Huddersfield is well-known as a fierce assailant of the Established Church. In this particular demonstration, however, he found himself at one with champions of the Church like Mr. Talbot and Sir Richard Cross. A remarkable unanimity prevailed on both sides in expression of the opinion that the traffic must be put down.

Mr. Talbot impressively called upon the Prime Minister to deal with the subject. But Mr. Gladstone, with all his appetite for work, modestly declined the invitation, whilst undertaking to give a friendly consideration to the Bill on the subject, which Mr. Stanhope had charge of. In subsequent conversation this half pledge was further extended, and both resolution and amendment were withdrawn, with the expressed object of clearing the decks for definite action, in which Conservatives and Liberal Churchmen and Nonconformists promised to co-operate.

Wednesday afternoon was peacefully engaged in the discussion of one or two small Bills, which passed a Second Reading, though with little chance of further survival in this busy Session.



THE revival of *Romeo and Juliet* at the COURT Theatre has probably for its chief object that of furnishing Madame Modjeska with an opportunity of appearing in the character of Juliet, which she is known to have already represented in private circles—at least as regards one or two of the leading scenes of the play. Careful preparation has, however, been nevertheless bestowed upon the representation; and though the company in general is not very strong, or particularly well qualified for the interpretation of the higher poetical drama, it is fairly efficient and well drilled. Mr. Forbes Robertson, who, having been the Romeo of the private performances, is naturally entrusted with the part on this occasion, is an actor who, if he cannot move us much to pity, or excite by passionate outbursts, yet always displays cultivation and good taste. He has, moreover, a touch of poetry in his composition, together with an artistic sense, which occasionally serve him well. His Romeo is accordingly not a great performance, but is still very far from being a failure. His love-making is picturesque; and if there is anything in the character that has been heard of its being "lackadaisical," it must be confessed that Romeo, in this phase of his existence, is not a robust personage. Madame Modjeska has manifestly bestowed upon Juliet very careful study. The suddenness of her girlish love and all its absorbing trustfulness are depicted with a very natural truth. In the balcony scene the text was illuminated by many charming little interpretative acts, which, slight as they are, give freshness and sincerity to what is so familiar. All through this act, moreover, her delivery was remarkably free from the errors of accent and emphasis, which were wont to prove so serious a drawback from the pleasure felt in witnessing Madame Stella Colas's performance of the same part. Now and then a syllable to which English speakers are accustomed to give a certain length—as distinguished from the mere accent which forms the basis of our metrical system—was given as a short syllable, and *vice versa*, and it cannot be denied that peculiarities of this kind offend the ear and interfere much with the illusion of the scene. But altogether this accomplished actress's utterances were in the earlier scenes strikingly indicative of what may be achieved by a foreign performer by dint of labour and perseverance. Unfortunately, as the play proceeded the difficulties of the task became more apparent, partly, it may be, from the anxieties of a first night's performance before an audience disposed to criticise and expecting much, but also, no doubt, by reason of the more exacting nature of the task in scenes of excitement and strong passion, the hold which she had gained upon the audience became sensibly weaker. The fine imaginative passage in the bed-chamber scene, when the distracted girl pictures to herself the possible horrors of awakening in the tomb of her ancestors, failed of its accustomed effect, the delivery being here hurried, the action somewhat confused, and the whole wanting in measure and steady progress to a climax. In the last scene an innovation is attempted in the arrangements—if that can be called an innovation which is copied from the lyric stage. As in the opera by M. Gounod the scene reveals the interior of the tomb where Juliet is lying upon her bier, and the whole dialogue and transactions of the scene up to the moment when Romeo breaks into the vault take place outside a large raised partition, enabling the spectator to see what is passing. The result is not unpoetical, but the awakening of Juliet, and her passionate utterances over the dead body of her lover, missed much of their effect, for the reasons already indicated. The text prepared for the occasion has been subjected to rather unceremonious transpositions and excisions, but the management reject the heresies of the old stage versions, and Romeo is not permitted to awaken from his dying condition. Mr. Wilson Barrett plays the part of Mercutio with much skill, though his art is certainly not concealed. In the character of the Nurse Miss Le Thiere seems not quite at ease. Mr. Anson appears both as Peter and the apothecary, parts which he plays with due sense of character and praiseworthy moderation. Beautiful and appropriate scenery has been painted for the occasion by Messrs. Hartford, Stafford Hall, Hann, and Sutcliffe.

AT THE PARK a new four act drama, entitled *Certy*, by "Owl," the author of *A Gilded Shame*, was produced on Saturday last. The plot, partly founded on the well-known story of the "Lamp-lighter," is full of sensational incidents and melodramatic effects, but somewhat incoherent and disconnected with, little or no regard being paid to the unities. Miss Stella Brereton is effective in the title rôle, and is well supported by Miss Myra Hill, Miss Bella Cuthbert, and Mr. Cruikshanks.

MR. AND MRS. GERMAN REED'S ENTERTAINMENT at St. George's Hall, Langham Place, closes on Monday next, and reopens on Easter Monday. The programme opens with a new operatic sketch, entitled *Many Happy Returns*. The libretto, by Gilbert a'Beckett and Clement Scott, is slight, but sufficient for its purpose, which is to show how a certain mysterious and eccentric Septimus Styx, professor of physiognomy, manages to set by the ears the family and friends of Dr. Daisy, by darkly hinting to each that the others must be concerned in some dreadful conspiracy, the foundation for all his suspicions being nothing more nor less than the various presents with which they intend to surprise the old doctor on his sixtieth birthday. All is, of course, set right in the end, although the Professor still contends that he is "not in the habit of making mistakes." The music, by Mr. Lionel Benson, is pleasing and appropriate. Mr. Bishop is Professor Styx, Mr. A. Reed the Doctor, Miss Brandon his niece, and Mr. Corney Grain a French marquis, who is enamoured of her, a quarrel between these two being, of course, part of the mischief brought about by the Professor. To this succeeds Mr. Corney Grain's laughable musical monologue, *Our Institute*, and the evening finishes with the new farcical sketch *All at Sea*, written by Arthur Law, with music by Corney Grain, in which Miss Leonora Graham makes hit as an antiquated maiden lady, overflowing with gush, and all anxiety to arrange a matrimonial alliance.

French comic operas are still popular amongst us. At the ALHAMBRA, on Monday, was produced an adaptation by Mr. R. Reece of Messrs. Clairville and Delacour's *Jeannie, Jeannette, and Jeanneton*, with music by M. P. Lacome. The plot which is of the kind usual in works of this class is founded on an incident in the life of the Comtesse du Barry, the favourite of Louis XV.; but the attractions of the performance consist rather in the splendid dresses of the period and the tuneful and lively music, than in the story. The characters of the three ladies whose names form the title

are vivacious sustained by Miss Constance Liseby, Miss St. Quentin, and Miss Alice May, who alike sing with skill and taste. Mr. Fred Leslie is also good as one Briot, an amorous baker. In the second act a gorgeous and effective ballet, *Endymion*, is introduced somewhat ingeniously in a drawing-room scene, Mdlles. Pertoldi and Palladino, being especially well received.

Mr. Richard Lee's new romantic drama, entitled *Branded*, will be produced at the PRINCESS'S Theatre this evening.—An adaptation by Mr. Farnie of Offenbach's comic opera, entitled *Margot*, is in preparation at the GLOBE Theatre.—Mr. Boucicault's comedy, *London Assurance*, has been revived at the IMPERIAL Theatre for afternoon performances.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES

WE some time ago described and illustrated in these columns a sunshine recorder, consisting of a spherical lens which told its story by burning a track upon a slip of cardboard. A more sensitive and effective instrument answering the same purpose has been devised by Mr. D. Winstanley, F.R.A.S., who calls it The Radiograph. By means of this contrivance, not only the duration of sunshine is noted, but its intensity is also faithfully recorded. Its construction will be understood by reference to Fig. 1. A wheel of brass is

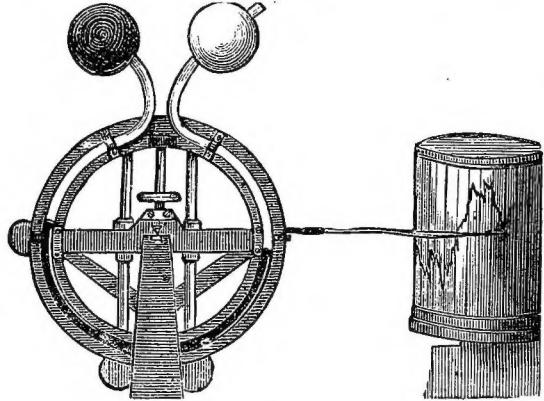


FIG. 1

delicately poised, like a chemical balance, by means of a "knife edge" resting on agate planes. This wheel carries a glass tube bent to the same shape and crowned with a bulb at each extremity. One of these bulbs is blackened and the other is left clear, the tube between them being half filled with mercury. The blackened bulb absorbs radiant heat, and by that means the air within it becomes expanded and presses upon the mercurial column; when this occurs the weight is naturally shifted towards the other side of the apparatus, and the wheel moves upon its axis. The stylus attached, shown at the right hand side of the wheel, partaking of the motion, traces a mark on the cylinder, revolving by clockwork, which it just touches. This cylinder is covered with lamp-smoked paper, used in many other recording instruments, and the least touch removes the delicate film, leaving, of course, a white scratch or line. The facsimile of a record obtained by the Radiograph is shown at Fig. 2.

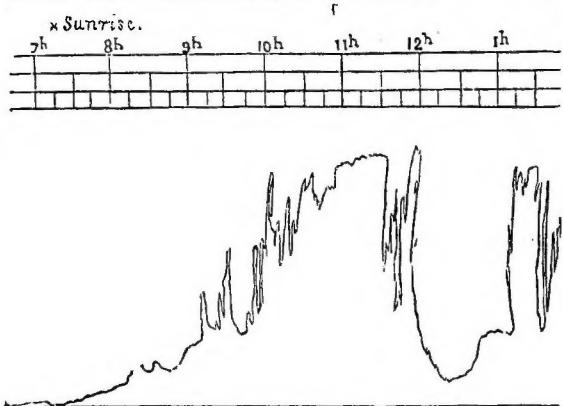


FIG. 2

The instrument is now used at Kew, and many other Observatories, and has been adopted by the Royal Society's Committee on Solar Physics. It is so sensitive that sometimes the passage of two or three clouds across the sun's disc in one minute will cause corresponding movements of the stylus. We may add that the records so obtained are rendered permanent by the application of varnish. The importance of such accurate data of the duration and intensity of sunshine can hardly be over-estimated.

A gentleman at Liverpool has succeeded in photographing a lightning flash at the instant that it struck and shattered to pieces a bell tower there. The result is said to resemble very closely the forked spark which is seen between the terminals of an induction coil. We may also note that Dr. Janssen, at his Observatory at Meudon, claims to have taken pictures of the sun in one-twenty-thousandth part of a second. These are two instances of the wonderful rapidity attained by modern photographic processes.

From experiments made by M. Rossi, it seems that explosions of fire-damp are preceded by certain minute noises which are discoverable by means of the microphone. It is, therefore, suggested that collieries should be furnished with Observatories where these microphonic warnings, coupled with barometric readings, might give timely notice of impending danger.

Mr. Watson's colliery at Earnoch, near Hamilton, is now illuminated with the Swan lamp. This is the first application of the electric light to coal-mining, and the experiment must be regarded with great interest. The adoption of electricity for fiery mines has, by many, been considered dangerous. Not on account of the lamp itself, for that can be quite shut in, for the incandescent carbon is not dependent upon oxygen for its luminosity, but in case of an accidental spark from the connecting wires. This difficulty is said to have been met by the use of a special "safety" modified lamp, and we shall doubtless soon hear of an attempt to dispense with the old "Davy."

It is interesting to note that in Glasgow lately a fire alarm was conveyed by telephone, and that the engines were on their way to the scene before the news reached the fire station by the usual means.

The great refractor for the Vienna Observatory, representing the largest telescope in the world, has at length been completed by its maker, Mr. Grubb, of Dublin. The tube of this instrument is thirty-five feet long, and weighs seven tons, but its adjustment is so delicate that a mere touch will cause it to move.

Although the phonograph was ushered into the world with many high-flown ideas as to its power in preserving to us the voices of

those dead and gone, it has gradually settled down into its place as a very wonderful and extremely clever scientific toy. A use for it has, however, been found at the new Polyglot Institute of Paris, where it is to be employed for the purpose of instructing the pupils in the correct pronunciation of difficult words in foreign languages. We may add that the instrument in question is of special construction. If it were otherwise we are inclined to think that the learners might acquire a certain nasal twang not altogether desirable.

An electrical soldering iron has recently been patented in America. It consists of two conducting rods fixed to a handle, and holding between them a piece of platinum which becomes red-hot by virtue of the resistance which it offers to the passage of the current.

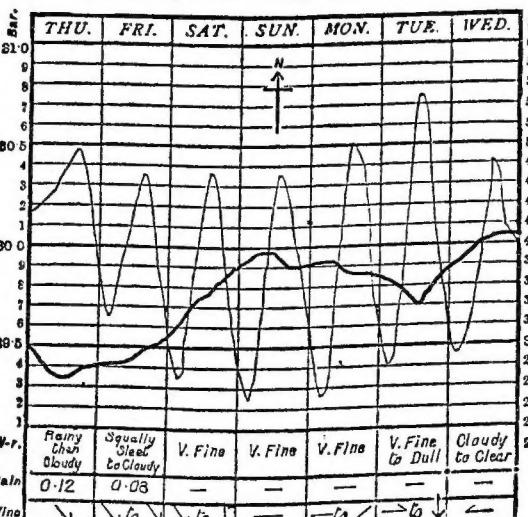
A great many plans have been tried to prevent the inevitable rust which attacks iron in all situations. The best known processes are those of Barff and Bower—in the first superheated steam is employed, and in the second heated air. There is also a French process which preserves the metal by a covering of platinum. An entirely new means of protecting the surface has been introduced by Mr. Ward—and he calls the metal so treated "Inoxydized Iron." The metal is coated with a silicate composition which is afterwards burnt into the metal, and gives it a coating of dull black. By mixing the composition with vitrifiable colours, the surface can be ornamented in any way and is quite independent of the usual covering of oil paint.

Dr. Bonwill, a Philadelphian dentist, has called attention to a curious mode of obviating pain without the use of anaesthetics, which he has adopted with success in his daily practice. He simply tells his patients to breathe with great rapidity—and after a few rapid inspirations the tooth is operated upon without pain. The results are said to be so constant that Dr. Bonwill has ceased to use nitrous oxide gas or any other anaesthetic agent. The theory he advances to explain the matter is this:—The attention being concentrated upon the act of breathing, there is such an effort demanded of the will that pain no longer produces its wonted impression upon the brain.

T. C. H.

THE THAMES RIVER BILL.—To persons who are unfamiliar with Parliamentary procedure, the question whether a Bill is a Private or Public one will probably seem of very little importance in comparison with whether or not it is in itself a beneficial and necessary piece of legislation. To all such persons we would recommend a study of that portion of Mr. Ritchie's speech in which he pointed out the different way in which Public and Private measures are dealt with in their passage through the House. Copies of Public Bills are distributed to the members some days before the second reading, no such distribution takes place in the case of a Private Bill; a Minister of the Crown states the objects of a Public Bill, whilst the second reading of a Private Bill is moved as a matter of course; besides which a Public Bill has to pass through the Committee of the whole House, and a Private Bill does not; and lastly, the preamble of a Public Bill is considered last and adapted to the amendments introduced into it, whilst the preamble of a Private Bill is considered first, and no alterations whatever at variance with it can afterwards be made in the clauses. It may perhaps be thought strange and unnecessary that such different methods of proceeding should be adopted, but whether they are in themselves justifiable or not, they constitute, we think, an unanswerable argument in favour of Mr. Ritchie's contention that the Thames River Bill should be treated as a Public Bill, although some little delay may possibly be the result of its withdrawal, and re-introduction in its new shape and character. The Bill deals with a multiplicity of conflicting interests and authorities extending over a very wide domain. It proposes to abolish compulsory pilotage above Gravesend, to give every one the free right of navigating the stream, to abolish the rights and privileges of the Waterman's Company without offering any compensation to its 12,000 members; to increase the storage dues of the Port of London by making all vessels over twenty tons instead of over forty tons liable; and to constitute the Thames Conservancy the smoke nuisance authority in the counties of Essex, Kent, Middlesex, Surrey, Oxford, and Wilts. It is, in fact, as the *Times* says, "a sort of omnibus bill, which affects a score of towns on the banks of the Thames, and every vessel on it, from a cockle-boat to a full-rigged ship, subjects every riparian owner to the powers of the Conservancy, initiates new principles of legislation, and virtually abolishes old institutions." It seems clear that a measure of such immense importance and extent ought not to be smuggled through the House in the guise of a Private Bill, but should only be passed after the most complete and thorough discussion of its merits. It is agreed on all hands that the various matters with which it proposes to deal are such as afford plenty of scope for remedial legislation; but that is only an additional reason why the Bill should take the form of a Government measure.

WEATHER CHART FOR THE WEEK MARCH 24 TO MARCH 30 (INCLUSIVE).



EXPLANATION.—The thick line shows the variations in the height of the barometer during the past week ending Wednesday midnight. The fine line shows the shade for temperature for the same interval, and gives the maximum and minimum readings for each day, with the (approximate) time at which they occurred. The information is furnished to us by the Meteorological Office.

REMARKS.—The weather of this week has been, on the whole, very fine and bright, although scarcely so settled at the commencement of the period as towards its close. On the mornings of Thursday and Friday (24th and 25th ult.), in fact, some cold rain and sleet occurred, but the after part of those days was fine, and the other days have been absolutely dry, and, as a rule, bright. The winds have been in a cold quarter all the week; during the first three days they were north-westerly, on Sunday and Monday (27th and 28th ult.) easterly or north-easterly, on Tuesday (29th ult.) northerly, and on Wednesday (30th ult.) again north-westerly, and under these circumstances the thermometer has been rather low for the time of year, the highest reading recorded being only 55 deg., on Tuesday (29th ult.). Night frosts have been reported on many occasions, and on Sunday and Monday (27th and 28th ult.) the minimum thermometer fell to 25 deg. The barometer has oscillated rather frequently, but there have been no very extensive changes. The barometer was highest (30.04 inches) on Wednesday (26th ult.); lowest (29.33 inches) on Thursday (24th ult.); range, 0.71 inches. Temperature was highest (55 deg.) on Tuesday (29th ult.); lowest (25 deg.) on Sunday and Monday (27th and 28th ult.); range, 30 deg. Rain or sleet fell on two days. Total amount, 0.20 inches. Greatest fall on any one day, 0.12 inches, on Thursday (24th ult.).



DRESS-COATS are now called "ebony whistles" by Gallic dandies.

THE TELEGRAPH is at last to be introduced into China, between Shanghai and Tient-sin.

MR. JOHN PRESCOTT KNIGHT, Secretary to the Royal Academy for a quarter of a century, has died at the age of seventy-eight. Mr. Knight was best known as a portrait painter. He retired from his post in 1873.

CROWN PRINCE RUDOLPH OF AUSTRIA is keeping a diary of his Eastern travels, and on his return, will probably publish extracts from his journal. He sends home the most interesting spoils of his gun, to be stuffed for the new Viennese Natural History Museum.

THE CENTENARY OF GEORGE STEPHENSON'S BIRTH is to be duly commemorated at Newcastle-upon-Tyne on June 9. Besides the usual features of such festivities, a movement will then be initiated to erect a building for the College of Physical Science, to be called the Stephenson College for the University of Durham.

MIGRATORY BIRDS seem to be arriving in England very early this spring. Swallows were said to have appeared in Cornwall some time since, and the wryneck was heard early last week near Richmond Park by a correspondent of *The Times*, who notes that the latter birds do not usually come till the beginning of April, just before the cuckoo.

AN AUTOGRAPH FAN is the latest social instrument of torture in Paris. It is made of pure white parchment, and hangs unnoticed by the fair wearer's side, until the lady meets with any celebrity, when she unfurls her fan, and begs her victim to inscribe his signature, or any short impromptu which may occur to him at the moment.

PNEUMATIC CLOCKS FOR LONDON are proposed by a Bill now before Parliament. This plan, which has proved very successful in Paris, applies either to public or private clocks, and ensures that each timepiece shall mark identical time, however distant from each other. It is suggested to establish ten stations in London, the annual expense for each public clock being only 12s. 6d.

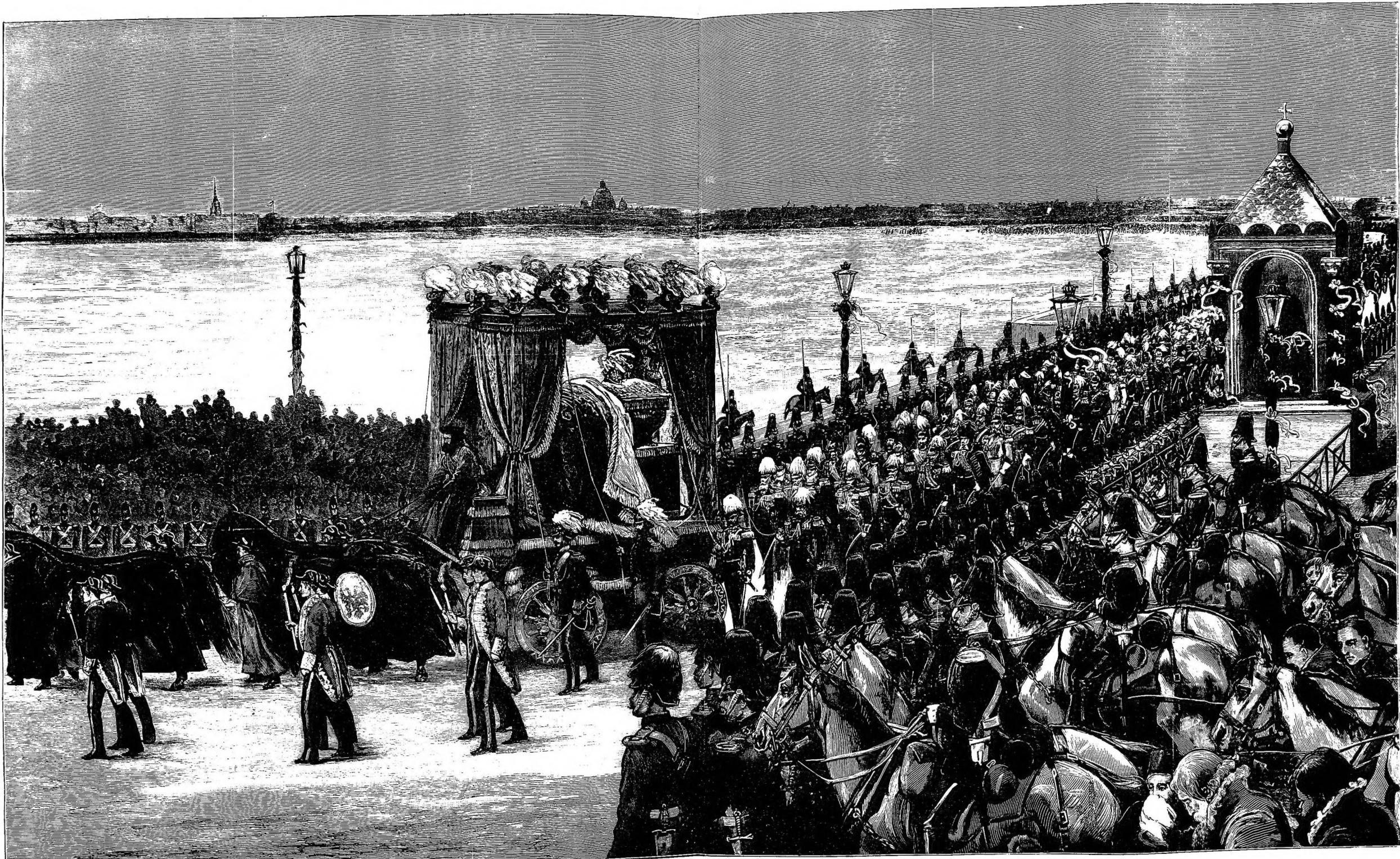
PROFESSOR ADAMS delivered the last of the Cantor Lectures on the 28th, in the Theatre of the Society of Arts, the subject being Electric Lighting by Incandescence. The Professor illustrated the subject by a profusion of brilliant experiments. Towards the close of the lecture the lecture-room was entirely lighted by Swan lamps, of which system we publish some illustrations on another page. The effect of the illumination was extremely beautiful, the light being delightfully soft and pleasant, and perfectly steady. The pictures which decorate the walls of the theatre were never seen to greater advantage.

LONDON MORTALITY increased last week, and 1,516 deaths were registered against 1,459 during the previous seven days (an increase of 57), being 256 below the average, and at the rate of 21.3 per 1,000. There were 49 deaths from small-pox (an increase of 6, the number of small-pox patients in the Metropolitan Hospitals on Saturday last being 820), 48 from measles, 28 from scarlet fever, 7 from diphtheria, 33 from whooping-cough, 2 from typhus, 11 from enteric fever, and 9 from diarrhoea. Deaths referred to diseases of the respiratory organs rose to 348 (against 345 the previous week, and being 122 below the average), of which 210 were attributed to bronchitis and 85 to pneumonia. Different forms of violence caused 52 deaths. There were 2,640 births registered against 2,709 the previous seven days, being 14 below the average. The mean temperature was 39.5 deg., and 2.4 deg. below the average.

"EASON'S ALMANAC FOR IRELAND,"—For mass, variety, and interest of information, we have rarely met any thing to compare with this work (Dublin: W. H. Smith and Son), which has reached its eighth year of publication. Besides the ordinary features of a calendar—which, by the way, are more than usually copious and varied—it contains exhaustive and lucid summaries and statistics, referring not to Ireland only, but to the United Kingdom generally, such as the account of the last ten years of the nation's finance; the voluminous tables relating to railway workings and their results; the statistics of agriculture in the United Kingdom and America; and the useful and important paper on Investments. Further, there are most valuable statistics of Irish agriculture and of Irish poor relief, an account of the distress—many people doubted if there was any real distress—in Ireland during the winter of 1879-80, and a highly useful chapter on the subject of emigration. It is, in fact, quite a model almanac, and great credit is due to its painstaking compilers.

THE PANORAMA OF THE CHARGE OF BALACLAVA, in Leicester Square, is well worth a visit. The incidents of that splendid feat are brought before the spectator with great fidelity and vigour, and a wealth and variety of detail scarcely less remarkable. It is possible that experts may here and there find fault with uniforms and little matters of a technical nature; but on the whole the panorama must be pronounced a great success. As in the similar exhibition at Paris, real earth and "properties," such as gun-carriages, broken ammunition-waggons, cannon-balls, and even dummy dead artillery-men are scattered in the immediate foreground; but the skilful artists, MM. Poilpot and Jacob, have so cunningly combined them with the actual painting, that it is almost impossible to discover the point of conjunction. Of course certain artistic liberties have been taken in thus representing several incidents of the famous charge at once; but they were unavoidable and do not in the least interfere with the curious air of reality which distinguishes the panorama.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HEROINES OF NIHILISM is curiously sketched by a writer in the Paris *Figaro*, who recognises that in this powerful organisation the women are, as a rule, of superior intellect and position to the men. They are mostly daughters of poor officers, of petty state officials, or even of shopkeepers, who, feeling the influence of modern times, are anxious to rise above the level of their parents, coarse ignorant people in the main. Either by their own talents or by the aid of influential patrons, the girls gain scholarships, and enter some high school where their brains are crammed with a heterogeneous mass of knowledge. At nineteen they leave, and in their turn become teachers. Finding their parents uncompanionable, they abandon home for some wretched lodging, where they eke out a miserable existence by giving poorly-paid lessons. Food is scarce, the feminine pleasures of dress are impossible, the restraining power of family affection is absent, they grow hopeless and discontented, when some day they form Socialist acquaintances, rapidly adopt their ideas, and, having found an object for their life, with feminine rashness devote themselves to the cause, even to the very death. Talking of Nihilism, by the way, a remarkable memorial card was found by the Paris police in a Socialist haunt. In the centre was the inscription, in Russian and French, "Russian Revolutionary Socialists, Strugglers and Martyrs," surrounded by nine portraits of the chief actors in the divers attempts on the life of Alexander II. The four corners were ornamented with gallows, billets, different instruments of torture, and a vast field in which the rising sun illuminated death's heads and workmen's tools.



THE LATE CZAR OF RUSSIA—THE FUNERAL PROCESSION FROM THE WINTER PALACE TO THE FORTRESS OF ST. PETER AND ST. PAUL.
MARCH 19—CROSSING THE NICHOLAS BRIDGE



AFFAIRS IN THE EAST.—The Ambassadors have decided to recommend the acceptance of Turkey's latest proposal for the new Greek frontier line, which, as far as can be judged, is undoubtedly more satisfactory than its predecessors. A few minor changes in the plan have been made by the Ambassadors, who will now sign a protocol acknowledging that Turkey has at last shown a desire for peace, and advising the Powers to urge Greece to accept the offer. It is no secret that this latest proposition is in a great measure due to the initiative of England. By the present project the Greeks would gain the larger and more valuable share of Thessaly, with about a third of Epirus, receiving altogether some 14,000 square kilometres of most fertile fields and pastureland. Roughly speaking, the proposed boundary begins somewhat to the north of the river Peneus, and descends zigzag in a south-westerly direction a little below Janina to join the Adriatic at the Bay of Arta. Neither Janina nor Prevesa is included in the cession, and the latter city appears to be the chief bone of contention in the present negotiations. Crete has dropped altogether out of the question. Although the Porte's proposal stops considerably short of the Berlin award, it is the most definite and conciliatory scheme yet put forward. Negotiations will now be opened at Athens, but, unless considerable pressure is exercised, it seems highly doubtful whether GREECE will accept the new Turkish boundary, even though the line be favoured by the rest of Europe. Her tone continues most warlike, men and arms are being sent towards the frontier, and the general feeling of the Greeks is steadily opposed to any abatement of the Berlin Conference. In her turn Turkey grows more pacifically inclined as the Porte realises her impoverished condition. The proverbial want of money at Constantinople is greater than ever, for the provinces have been fairly squeezed to the last piastre.

ROUMANIA has at length fulfilled her long-cherished dream, and has become a Kingdom. The step had been foreshadowed for some time, but was hardly expected before May 22nd, the anniversary of Roumania's declaration of independence, so there was some little surprise in Bucharest, when a Bill for the elevation of the Principality into a Kingdom was brought before the Chamber on Saturday, and passed unanimously, the members of the Legislature and chief Government officials adjourning to pay their respects to the new King. The Roumanians are highly delighted with their increased dignity, and the event has been well received in other countries.

RUSSIA.—The last honours were paid to Alexander II. on Sunday. Heralds formally announced the burial ceremony on Saturday, when the Emperor, Empress, and Court attended a Funeral Service, and crowds of all classes pressed into the cathedral for a last look at their murdered ruler. Little enough was seen outside by the populace on Sunday, save carriages of mourners driving through the troop-lined streets, but inside the Cathedral was crammed to suffocation, though the ceremony was comparatively simple. After the Czar and Czarina's arrival, the mass for the dead was sung, the Prince and Princess of Wales and Crown Prince of Germany then joining the mourners, and at the close, the whole Imperial family kissed the late Czar's hand, and Alexander III. himself folded his father's Imperial mantle into the coffin. He then aided the Grand Dukes and Foreign Princes to bear the coffin to the grave, where the Metropolitan gave the last benediction, the guns of the fortress and the artillery of the capital booming forth at the same moment. Each mourner filed past the grave, throwing in leaves and sand, according to Russian custom, and the ceremony was over. The different foreign visitors are now leaving St. Petersburg, the Crown Prince of Germany having started on Tuesday, and the Prince of Wales on Thursday, after having in the Queen's name invested Alexander III. with the Order of the Garter.

Now that the excitement of the funeral ceremonies is past, Alexander III. has to seriously face the difficulties of Government. His first act has been to issue a manifesto providing in the event of his decease for the guardianship of the heir to the throne, appointing the Grand Duke Vladimir Regent if the little Czarevitch should succeed before his majority, and naming the Empress guardian of her children. Public attention, however, is almost entirely concentrated on the coming trial of the late Czar's assassins, which has been deferred until the 7th inst. in consequence of a new and important capture—Sophie Perovskaja, who has acknowledged herself an accomplice of Hartmann in the Moscow attempt, and has confessed to handing the bomb to Risakoff. Of a higher class than her companions, this woman seems to have been the mainspring of the plot, in conjunction with Jelaboff, while Risakoff, who actually threw the bomb, only knew of the conspiracy on the fatal day itself, but being a pure Nihilist at heart, anxious to destroy both the Head of the State and the conspirators to whom belonged, he eagerly acquiesced in the plan. He declares that the Nihilists are both poor and disunited. Sophie Perovskaja's arrest has apparently filled the Nihilists with consternation, and according to M. Rochefort in the *Intransigant*, the Executive Committee has decided that if she is executed the new Czar shall share the same fate. Probably the trial will last four days, there being sixty-two witnesses and eleven experts, while, although the proceedings are professedly to be kept secret, both the representatives of the Press and many of the public will be admitted. The Common Council of St. Petersburg intend to petition the Government to consult with the other Powers respecting the adoption of special measures against the Internationalists, while the journals have already felt that the old *régime* is by no means ended, two papers having suppressed for publishing objectionable political matter. Much speculation is rife concerning the recall of General Skobelev, as, although the commander is on his way back to St. Petersburg, his second in command, General Kourapatine, is busy improving his positions in Central Asia. At present, however, there seems little prospect of action in that direction. Russia is more occupied with strengthening her foreign relations, and is particularly affectionate towards Germany. The Czar was especially cordial to the Crown Prince, who in a speech to a Teutonic deputation from Moscow declared that the old friendly relations between the two countries will continue in the future, and that the friendship of the present will be as lasting as that of the former generation. A funeral service was held in Berlin on Sunday, attended by the Emperor and family, similar honours to the Czar's memory being paid in Paris. Austria, too, has mended her manners by making a demonstration of condolence at the opening of the Upper House, in order to condone for the late unsympathetic attitude of the Lower Chamber.

THE TRANSVAAL.—The general discontent at the conclusion of peace has been further enhanced by the news of the fall of Potchefstroom. Fairly starved out, the only food left being mealies, the garrison surrendered on March 21st, when the eight days' supplies provided during the armistice were within one day's march. The troops retained all the honours of war, surrendering their guns and rifles, but arranging to hand over the ammunition to President Brand's care during hostilities. Now the garrison are on their way to Natal, having lost eighteen killed and ninety wounded during the siege; and it is being widely discussed whether the Boers had any right to occupy a

British fort during the armistice, this being but one of the myriad difficulties which may be expected to arise before the definitive settlement of affairs. As time goes on Colonial opinion grows more adverse to the terms of peace, which are considered not only inopportune, but vague and inconclusive, and the troops being particularly dissatisfied that no opportunity has been given them to repair their defeats. The annoyance at the news when received on board the *Balmoral Castle* may be well imagined, considering that Sir F. Roberts and a great majority of his staff, having only arrived on Monday night, had to retrace their journey on Wednesday. The Boers have swiftly departed homewards, after despatching before Sir Evelyn Wood during the latter's inspection of Majuba Hill, when he was taken over the ground by the Boer Staff, and the attack minutely described. Commandant Joubert made his men a farewell speech, giving them unqualified praise for bravery and good conduct: while Mr. Kruger spoke in favour of the maintenance of peace. Throughout the campaign the Boers have endured much hardship, sleeping in the heavy rain without shelter, and receiving scanty food. Their position at Laing's Nek proves to have been highly defensive by nature, and resembles a horseshoe, the Nek forming the middle, and hills, such as the Majuba Mountain, the two ends; while, if driven from this point, the Boers would have found admirable cover at a short distance. As yet the date of the Royal Commission's meeting has not been fixed; but the deliberations will probably be held at Newcastle, where Mr. Kruger has been staying and Sir Evelyn Wood still remains. A deputation of loyal refugees has had a useless interview with the General, being much dissatisfied with the present arrangements. Travelling is now declared to be perfectly safe throughout the Transvaal.

There has been some severe fighting in BASUTOLAND, but nothing decisive is reported. The most important conflicts have been at Leribe, where Major Lawrence was killed; and at Boleka, where 500 Boers made a raid, and carried off numbers of horses and cattle, Colonel Carrington being severely wounded in the skirmish.

FRANCE.—Socialist outrages have caused a lively debate in the Chamber, where M. Madier de Montjau on Saturday attacked the Government for prosecuting those journals which applauded the Czar's assassination. M. Paul de Cassagnac followed up the attack by identifying regicide with Republican doctrines, and taunting M. Ferry with his conduct during the Franco-Prussian War, while the Minister was further embroiled with M. Janvier de la Motte, who, on M. Ferry's refusing to withdraw an objectionable remark, sent his seconds to demand satisfaction. Ultimately, however, the affair was peaceably arranged. Since then the Chamber has been occupied with the Bill limiting the hours of work in factories, it being decided that women and children under eighteen shall only work eleven hours daily, and six days a week. M. Gambetta has made two fresh speeches, both at banquets of industrial societies, and both being of more rhetorical than political importance, the chief point dwelt upon being the connection between politics and business, and the increasing importance of the latter.—After three months' discussion, the De Cissey case has at length been decided, and the General is fully acquitted.

PARIS celebrated Mi-Carême with unusual gaiety, the streets being thronged with processions, while a remarkable contrast was offered on the following day, when General Clinchard was buried with great pomp. General Lecomte has been appointed Governor in his stead.—Another important death has been that of M. Oscar De Lafayette, grandson of the famous general.—There is a Horse Show going on at the Palais de l'Industrie, and the Gymnase has brought out *Miss Fanfare*, a crude but promising production of two young authors, MM. Ganderax and Krantz.

The disaster at Nice last week, when the Italian Opera House was burned down during the performance, has caused general sympathy and mourning. Had the fire burst out later the loss of life would have been fearful, and as it is the total number of deaths is as yet unknown, for many are supposed to be under the ruins. Not a soul from the gallery escaped, owing to the inefficient means of egress, people being crushed and suffocated as well as burnt. The majority of the victims received an imposing funeral, and subscriptions for the surviving relatives have poured in from all parts.

GERMANY.—Prince Bismarck's taxation schemes are encountering the sharpest opposition in Parliament, and he has been defeated on the Altona question, the Reichstag having decided that Parliament has a right to be heard before Government appropriates the funds for the incorporation of the town in the Customs Union. The Prince however keeps stubbornly to his determination, and in reply to a violent attack by Dr. Lasker on the new brewing and stamp tax Bills, and on an accompanying memorial on the importance of tax reform, he firmly stated that the responsibility was his alone, and that he would maintain his programme to the last. It was approved by the Federal Government, and, if not carried out by the present Parliament, would be fulfilled by its successor. Besides this important subject, the Deputies are consulting on the Socialist question, and propose to call on the Government to take further precautionary measures, and to consider with other countries whether the right of asylum for political refugees should not be restricted. This feeling has been heightened by a threatening letter to the Crown Princess, warning her that the Prince would be assassinated at the Czar's funeral, and the Minister of the Interior has stated in the Reichstag that the Socialist tendencies in Germany just now are so strong, that it will be necessary to further extend the minor state of siege. Herr Von Puttkamer's speech was altogether a violent denunciation of the Nihilists. The Berlin police are very energetic just now, and daily expel suspicious persons.

INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN.—Abdurrahman is at length bestirring himself to take possession of Candahar. A force of 5,000 men has left Cabul, and is expected at Candahar on the 15th inst., while the Ameer has formally announced to the principal Sirdars and native chiefs that Candahar has been transferred to him by the British Government—information which entailed the immediate departure of Ayoob's envoys. The Candaharis themselves took the news quietly enough, though two minor outrages which subsequently occurred have been construed as signs of discontent at the rejection of Ayoob's claims. Not that Ayoob would be able just now to support his pretensions, for a fresh and serious rebellion has broken out at Herat, headed seemingly by Sirdar Mahomed Khan, who patched up an old quarrel to support Ayoob's retreat to Herat last autumn. Ayoob is said to be virtually besieged in the citadel, and thus Abdurrahman has a fair chance of making good his hold on Candahar, and might even take the opportunity to advance to Herat. Nawab Sir Gholam Hussein Khan, who rendered the British Government highly important service during both the Mutiny and Afghan wars, has died at his family home in the Bunnoo district.

Finance has been the great topic of home affairs in India, the Budget being published. Major Baring takes a fairly hopeful view of the situation, though he has to announce a deficit of over 6,000,000/- sterling for the past twelve months, while expecting a surplus of 855,000/- for the present year. The Afghan war has cost 15,680,000/- sterling, with an additional four millions for railway expenses. Trade has greatly revived, and the revenues have increased, but war and famine have swallowed up their surplus. Mr. Baring thinks that reduction might be made in war expenditure, and in the productive public works, where the Government should heartily encourage private enterprise.

UNITED STATES.—Congress is suffering from Obstruction, the Democrats opposing the recent nominations of Republicans to office, and causing a complete dead-lock. Further, the appointments altogether since President Garfield came into power have proved so objectionable to some of the Republicans that dissensions have

already arisen in the Cabinet. Another hint from Ireland, too, has been taken by 500 Brooklyn ratepayers, who owing to recent increase of rents propose to organise an Anti-Rent League and to "Boycott" the landlords. The extra session of Congress has been abandoned; the Government has issued a report on the history of trichinae, declaring all animals to be more or less infected, but that cooking destroys the worms; and there has been a disastrous freshet on the Platte River in Omaha, causing much damage and several deaths.



THE Queen has spent a few days in town this week. Before leaving Windsor, however, Her Majesty on Saturday entertained the Marquis of Hartington and the Bishop of Peterborough at dinner, while during the afternoon Princess Beatrice and Prince Leopold attended a special Lenten Service at Eton College Chapel, where Bach's *Passion Music*, *St. John*, was sung, the Prince leaving Windsor for London late in the evening. On Sunday morning, the Queen, with Princess Beatrice and Princess Mary and Prince Alfred of Edinburgh, attended Divine Service in the Private Chapel, special prayers, hymns, and anthem in commemoration of the late Czar being included in the service. The Bishop of Peterborough preached, and in the evening, as well as the Dean of Windsor and Mrs. Wellesley, dined with Her Majesty. Next morning the Queen and Princess Beatrice came up to Buckingham Palace, where they were joined by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Prince Leopold. In the afternoon the Empress of Austria visited Her Majesty, and subsequently Count and Countess Gleichen's two daughters, the Countesses Victoria and Helena, were received by the Queen, while in the evening Her Majesty gave a dinner-party to several of the Diplomatic Body. After dinner Princess Beatrice went to the St. James's Theatre, and next morning visited Princess Frederica at Hampton Court, while the young Princesses of Wales came to Buckingham Palace. The Queen held a Drawing Room in the afternoon, at which Her Majesty wore black silk trimmed with crape and jet, and a black tulle veil. Princess Beatrice was in black satin, and the Duchess of Connaught in black satin and brocaded velvet. Afterwards the Queen and Princess called on the Duchess of Cambridge, and in the evening Her Majesty gave another small dinner party, Princess Beatrice and Prince Leopold subsequently going to the Haymarket Theatre. On Wednesday Princess Beatrice and the Duchess of Connaught visited Miss Catherine Frere's collection of South African drawings, and the Balaklava Panorama, and the Princesses of Wales lunched at the Palace. The Queen gave audience to Mr. Gladstone, and inspected Mr. Sydney Hall's picture of the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, while in the afternoon Her Majesty and Princess Beatrice returned to Windsor. Yesterday (Friday) the Queen would hold a Council.

On arriving at St. Petersburg at the end of last week the Prince and Princess of Wales were met by the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh and Lord Dufferin at some distance from the capital, while the Empress and other members of the Imperial Family welcomed them at the railway station. During their visit the Prince and Princess occupied the Anitchkin Palace, the residence of the Czarevitch and Czarevna before acceding to the throne. Besides attending the funeral ceremonies the Prince and Princess dined with the Grand Duke Vladimir, and the Prince on Tuesday lunched at the British Embassy, while on Thursday the Prince was to leave St. Petersburg for Berlin to spend a day or two with the Crown Prince and Princess. He is expected in London about Monday next, but the Princess will remain a few days longer in St. Petersburg. In July the Prince and Princess will distribute the prizes to the successful pupils of the School for Daughters of Military Officers at Rotherham.—Princes Albert-Victor and George were to leave the Cape in the *Bacchante* with the rest of the Detached Squadron yesterday (Friday) for Singapore. Owing to the disasters in the Transvaal the Princes' visit to the Cape was not so lively as to other places, but they made numerous excursions in the neighbourhood when staying with Sir Hercules Robinson at Government House, and received several addresses, one being from the Malay community.

The Duchess of Edinburgh is recovering from the shock of her father's death, but will not come home yet.—Prince and Princess Christian returned to England on Wednesday.—The Duke and Duchess of Connaught, with Prince Leopold and the Duchess of Teck, attended the funeral service for the late Czar at the Russian Chapel, Welbeck Street, on Sunday morning. On Thursday night the Duke was to preside at the dinner in aid of the funds of the Princess Mary Village Homes for Little Girls, Addlestone, while in July the Duke and Duchess will visit Bath to distribute the prizes to the Lansdown Branch of the School for Daughters of Military Officers.

Princess Frederica of Hanover and Baron Pawel von Rammingen have lost their infant daughter, who died on Sunday night when a little more than three weeks old. The baby had been ill for some days, and had been privately baptised two days before, being named Victoria Georgina Beatrice Maude Anne.—The Grand Duke and Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz have come to England on a visit to the Duchess of Cambridge. Saturday was the Duke of Cambridge's sixty-second birthday.—The ex-Empress Eugénie has finally left Chislehurst for her new home near Aldershot.—The Empress of Austria has left England after nearly five weeks' stay at Combermere Abbey.



CHURCH DEFENCE.—On Thursday, at a Conference held at Lambeth Palace under the presidency of the Primate, it was resolved that, "in view of the strenuous and persistent efforts now being made to prejudice the public mind against the National Church, it is indispensable that a corresponding effort be made on the part of all who are attached to her, without distinction of religious or political party, to take such steps as may be needful for putting distinctly before the country the truth as regards the work, history, and position of the Church of England;" that to effect this it is necessary to make an immediate and substantial addition to the funds of the Church Defence Institution; and that his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury be requested to commend the matter to the serious attention of the clergy and laity.

EXETER HALL, the interior of which has undergone an almost entire reconstruction, was reopened on Tuesday last, the Jubilee day of its first opening. Lord Shaftesbury presided, and after the Treasurer and Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association had spoken, the Archbishop of Canterbury moved a resolution acknowledging the blessing which had hitherto attended the work of the Association, and expressing thankfulness for the enlarged sphere of usefulness now presented to it. This was seconded by Earl Cairns, and amongst the other speakers were Mr. S. Morley,

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the Lord Mayor, and the Rev. Canon Fleming. Letters of apology were read from Mr. Bright, the Bishops of Rochester, Liverpool, and Sodor and Man, and Mr. C. H. Spurgeon, who stated that he only declined the invitation from sheer inability to comply with it.

THE BORDESLEY RITUAL CASE came again before Lord Penzance as Dean of Arches on Saturday last, an application being made for the issue of a new *significavit*; but was adjourned pending the result of Mr. Enrath's appeal to the House of Lords, which his Lordship said he expected to be sincerely prosecuted with all reasonable speed.—On Wednesday an application was made to the Lord Chancellor for an order for the sale of the Rev. S. F. Green's furniture, but his lordship declined to grant it until satisfied that the Court of Chancery would have felt bound to make such an order. He thought that in an ecclesiastical cause the ecclesiastical property should have been made available instead of the private goods.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES IN MUSIC HALLS.—Last week we noted that the Middlesex Magistrates had forbidden oratorio performances in Town Halls within their jurisdiction. It now appears that they also object to the Sunday religious services which for years past have been conducted in many London Music Halls. That conducted by the Rev. Charles Cook at the Metropolitan Music Hall, Edgware Road, was peremptorily stopped last Sunday, the notice from Scotland Yard reaching the reverend gentlemen only on the Friday night previous. Mr. Cook is naturally indignant at such uncalmed interference, and his congregation, which numbers some 2,000 people, intend to hold a demonstration in Hyde Park to-morrow (Sunday) to protest against it.

THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION is this year to be the subject of a contested election—an unprecedented event in the history of the Union. Dr. Parker, of the City Temple, is one of the "nominees"—a term which he, with great nicety of discrimination, distinguishes from "candidate"; and his opponent, whose nomination he admits is much more numerously signed, is the Rev. Mr. Macfadyen, of Manchester.

THE SALVATION ARMY, with its noisy processions and eccentric religious services, continues to excite the most determined opposition from the rougher portion of the population, amongst whom its propaganda is mainly carried on. On Sunday last, at Basingstoke, a vast mob collected in the streets, and, despite the efforts of the Mayor and a large body of special constables, effectually prevented the procession of the "Army," which retreated to its meeting-place; while at Reading the meeting-place itself—a boat-house near the river—was besieged by a gang of russians, who broke the forms and maltreated the evangelists, whom they hunted for half a mile along the road to their lodgings, beating and stoning them, and making an attempt to run them to a bridge in order to fling them into the water. According to one account no police protection was afforded to them either within the building or outside. At Salisbury a magisterial proclamation forbidding the "Army" to assemble in the streets has been temporarily obeyed under protest; while at Poole the open-air gatherings have been continued in defiance of a similar order.

THE REV. C. H. SPURGEON, who had been absent for some weeks from the Metropolitan Tabernacle owing to a rheumatic attack, was sufficiently recovered to preach there on Sunday morning last, but was too weak to occupy the pulpit at the evening service also.



ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.—The main features of Mr. Gye's prospectus have been tolerably well known (or guessed at) for some time past. The document, however, now officially put forth, demands a few words of attention. That its contents are satisfactory will be readily admitted. The company is strong at all points. To Mesdames Adelina Patti and Emma Albani (*lucida sidera*), naturally at the head of the sopranos, we have to add Madame Sembrich, who may be said to have won her London reputation at a bound; Mlle. Alvina Valleria, who has recently earned golden opinions in America, the country of her birth; and certain new comers. From these may be singled out Mlle. Josephine de Reské (sister to Signor de Reské), much spoken of abroad, and Mlle. Warnots, a singer of admitted standing on the Continent. Madame Scalchi is again the leading contralto, with Mlle. Pasqua as her chief associate. There are also new comers in the list of tenors (with Signors Nicolini and Gayarre as principals), among others less conspicuous, being Signor Mierwinski, who has but lately distinguished himself at the Paris Grand Opera. A goodly array of barytones and basses comprises M. Lassalle, the new, and Signor Cotogni, the old favourite, in the former department; M. Gailhard, Signors Ciampi, Silvestri, and De Reské in the latter. Here, too, the names of five artists present themselves who have yet to make their way in England. So that we have to test the quality of no fewer than thirteen "first appearances"—four sopranos, four tenors, two barytones, and three basses. It can hardly be denied that, during the interval, Mr. Gye has been unusually active in his search for novelty. The orchestra, led by Mr. Carrodus, will be nearly the same as that to which we are accustomed, except in one point of considerable significance. There are still to be two conductors; but Signor Vianesi having retired is to be succeeded by M. Dupont, a *chef d'orchestre* highly esteemed in Brussels—Signor Bevignani (to the general satisfaction) retaining his post. The chorus is as before. About the ballet it is enough to say that while the Sisters Reuters reoccupy the same position to which they have hitherto done credit, Mlle. Rosina Viale, with whom we have yet to become acquainted, is engaged as *premiere danseuse*. The position of "stage manager" is once more to be held by Signor Tagliafico, and that of organist by Mr. Pittman. Messrs. Dayes and Caney occupying their accustomed places as leading scenic artists. That an opera wholly strange to our stage should be produced with the object of providing a new part for Madame Albani is especially satisfactory. Great expectations were entertained last year of Herr Anton Rubinstein's *Nero*, but after much preamble and discussion the idea of presenting that work was abandoned. The same composer's *Demon*, under the Italian title, *Il Demonio*, will now, however, atone for the loss of *Nero*, and in this the accomplished Canadian songstress is to impersonate the heroine. No new opera is announced for Madame Patti, but in revenge she will be the life and soul of a very interesting revival, in Rossini's *Otello*, when an ideal Desdemona may confidently be looked for. The announcement of *Il Seraglio* would be welcome if only because it adds a fresh opera by Mozart to the repertory, while another recommendation lies in the fact that the chief character is allotted to Madame Sembrich, to whom it is doubtless thoroughly familiar. The promise of Boito's *Mefistofele*, "if time should permit," must of course be taken, like all such conditional pledges, *cum grano salis*. Viewed as a whole, however, Mr. Gye's prospectus is of excellent augury. The season begins on Tuesday, April 19th, with what opera is as yet unannounced.

CONCERTS.—At the Crystal Palace on Saturday the ninth of the Schubert symphonies was magnificently played under the direction of Mr. Manns, and more than ever appreciated. *Finis coronat opus* may well apply to this extraordinary inspiration. Madame Montigny Rémy obtained and merited a brilliant success in

Mendelssohn's G minor Concerto, which she gave with wonderful grace and spirit. The programme included an *Introduction and allegro* for pianoforte and orchestra, by M. B. Godard (nothing remarkable), and an orchestral "Rhapsody," entitled "Burns," by Mr. A. C. Mackenzie. The singers were Miss Mary Davies and Herr von Zur Mühlen; the lady especially excelling in two charming songs by the late Sterndale Bennett—"To Chloe in Sickness" and "Maydew." At the concert to-day Mr. Cowen's "Scandinavian Symphony" is to be performed.—At the last concert of the Philharmonic Spohr's great symphony, *Die Weihe der Töne*, was given, the overtures being Spontini's *La Vestale*, Sterndale Bennett's *Paradise and the Peri*, and a curious jumble of cacophony, entitled *Sigurd Slembe*, intended by the composer, Herr Svendsen, as a musical illustration of Björnson's much vaunted poem. Herr Joachim played Beethoven's violin concerto more than ever superbly, and vocal music was contributed by Madame Orgeni (who introduced the rondo, "L'amerò sarà costante," from Mozart's *Il Restore*), and Mr. Frank Boyle, who, at short notice, took the place of Mr. Sims Reeves (indisposed), and gave with much expression the graceful song, "The Full Moon is Beaming," from Henry Smart's *Bride of Dunkerron*. Mr. Cusins, the conductor, merits more than ordinary praise for the pains he bestowed upon the beautiful overture of Sterndale Bennett (the Philharmonic Jubilee overture in the year of the last International Exhibition, 1862).—At the Popular Concert of Saturday Madame Schumann played her husband's picturesque *Forest Scenes*, as well as the great trio in B flat of Beethoven, with Herr Joachim and Signor Piatti—an irreproachable performance on all hands. The vocalist was Mr. Santley. On Monday evening Herr Joachim led Beethoven's quartet in F minor, which may be regarded as the beginning of what is the accepted style to denominate the "third period," and which (the programme reminds us) Mendelssohn regarded, with the first "Rasoumowsky" quartet, as "the most thoroughly Beethovenian of all Beethoven's works." He also played his own expressive "Romance" in B flat, with some more "Hungarian Dances" accompanied on the pianoforte by Mr. Eugène D'Albert, joining the same young pianist and Signor Piatti in Mozart's exquisitely melodious trio in E (his sixth)—another performance above reproach. Madame Schumann gave a *nocturne* and *scherzo* by Chopin, and Mlle. Lavrovská, a young lady who possesses a splendid contralto voice, sang with great applause airs from Glück's *Alceste* and Schubert's "Erl King"—the first of which, for evident reasons, suits her much better than the last. Mr. Zerbini accompanied Schubert's famous *Lied* (his first published!) admirably.

WAIF.—Among the victims of the terrible fire which destroyed the theatre at Nice were a son and two daughters of the well-known Scottish vocalist (John Wilson's legitimate successor), Mr. David Kennedy.



I.

"RAMBLES AMONG BOOKS.—II. AUTOBIOGRAPHY," affords readers of the *Cornhill* a charming survey of a wide field of literary studies, embracing equally Gibbon's not-unjustified complacency, and Rousseau's glorying self-abasement, Callini's braggart swagger, and good Bishop Watson's innocent persuasion—when preferment for him came to an end with his appointment to a Welsh diocese where he never resided—that "true Christian principles no longer meet their reward in this world." Mankind as a rule forget autobiographers too soon. No genuine revelation of the inner self—and every autobiography must be such consciously or unconsciously—can ever deserve to pass completely into oblivion.—"Winter Nights at Davos" though brilliant pictures of scenes on which J. A. S. was one of the first, if we mistake not, to bestow the doubtful boon of "fashion," are just a little over-wrought. Our gratitude to those who, in the writer's phrase, can "etch sensations with the burin of their art of words," is qualified by the condition that they must exert their power sparingly.—A well-told tale of a "Poaching Adventure," whose *dénouement* may come on the reader with a slight surprise, and a good paper on the "Census of 1881," make up a number of more than average excellency.

Fraser, for April, is solid almost to repelliveness. Among the slender "residuum" of lighter articles, much the most attractive is Miss Helen Zimmern's "Jewish Home Life," an interesting account of Herr Kompert's stories of the Jews in Austria thirty years ago in the Ghettos of the Capitals, or in rural villages of Bohemia—stories still almost sealed books to English novel readers—but as much richer in minute details of the inner life of the despised race as they are inferior in artistic power to the better-known romances of Sacher-Masoch.—In "Lancashire Witches" Mr. A. C. Ewald tells out of State Papers and quaint old volumes the grim sober facts of two causes célèbres in the annals of Demonology, one of which supplied to Mr. Harrison Ainsworth the materials for a popular novel.—"Hospital Reform" is an able paper on perhaps the most "burning question" of Hospital Management at the present moment: the right way to deal with patients willing and able to pay moderate fees for treatment and accommodation. Such patients will not come to the public wards, and ought not to receive gratuitous attendance from the honorary medical staff. But they would come in hosts if they could secure a private chamber, while on the other hand the fees they would collectively supply would keep on at the hospital a number of talented young men who now, "not from choice, but from necessity," are driven to resort to general practice in the country.

Temple Bar, besides further well sustained instalments of its two exceptionally interesting serials, has some very readable, if not particularly original, padding. "Dogs of Literature," a lengthy paper on dogs owned or described by famous writers from the Camp and Maida of Sir Walter Scott to the Floss of Mr. Barrett Browning, is quite a treasury of canine anecdote. "Haroun Alraschid" skims cleverly the cream of Professor Palmer's recent monograph on the famed Caliph of the Arabian Nights.—"Thackeray as a Poet" touches lightly but with discrimination on the scattered lyrics which go far to show that the first of British novelists had power which under other conditions might almost have made him an English Beranger.

The *North American* for April is a little dry. In "Reform versus Reformation" Judge Albion W. Tourgee comes to the conclusion that "a short secure term, with a preliminary examination not competitive, and so leaving much discretion to the appointing power, would 'more nearly comport with the spirit of American institutions, and be less likely to establish the reign of routine' than any re-formation of the American Civil Service after the English system of appointments for life and unlimited competition.—Mr. Anthony Trollope has a genial if somewhat thin article on "Longfellow;" and Mr. W. M. Stringer, in "The Telegraph Monopoly," draws a terrifying picture of the successive steps by which the Western Union has absorbed almost all the other telegraph companies in the States, and argues strongly for Government purchase of existing lines, and the incorporation of the telegraphs with the general postal system of the country.

To *Harper*, under the title of "Indian Education at Hampton and Carlisle," Miss Helen Ludlow contributes a most amusing sketch of the successful way in which the sons and daughters of Sioux, Gros Ventres, and Cheyennes are trained by deaf and practised teachers in all the industries of the "Pale Faces," and how "Indian Visiting School Boards" have already become an institution of the Republic.—"Young Man, Go West" is an interesting paper on the Iowa

counterpart of Tom Hughes's "Rugby," the earlier and highly successful co-operative colony founded soon after the Centennial Exhibition by those famous Cambridge oarsmen, the Brothers Close.—"My Farm in Switzerland" shows very consolingly that "grape-land" in the old Continent is almost as good an investment for a small capitalist—if comfort be considered no less than profit—as even an expanse of Iowa cornfields.

Lovers of canoeing should turn to *Scribner* for a spirited paper, "Running the Rapids of the Upper Hudson," an adventure worthy of Cooper's favourite hero, "Pathfinder,"—"Marine Forms as Applicable to Decoration" supply subjects for some very tasteful illustrations and skilful letterpress comment on the geometrical laws which regulate with steady uniformity the seemingly irregular shapes of starfish, crabs, sea anemones, &c.—The charming novelette, "A Fair Barbarian," concludes almost—not quite—as brightly as it began.

A pleasant sensible paper on "Furniture Fixtures and the Fine Arts"—there is much truth in the remark that the "householder of to-day purchases his taste among other articles of the art-upholsterer"—and another, entitled "Mine Ease in Mine Inn," in which the modern railway caravanserai is regretfully compared with the old-fashioned almost extinct country inn, for which, by the way, in the days of its splendour, popular writers could hardly find terms too abusive are, next to the serials, the most attractive articles in *Time*.

The *Argosy* and *All the Year Round* are hardly this month so good as usual. A paper in the latter on the various acting versions of *King Lear*, and a pathetic story, "Pippo's Reward," are both however something more than readable.

SEVENTY SONNETS OF CAMOENS, &c.*

OUR readers will be pleased to learn that the selection of Camoens' Sonnets, promised by Mr. J. J. Aubertin (the translator of the *Lusiads*), has become public property. The dainty volume is in every way worthy of its predecessor. The work is divided into four parts: a dedicatory Letter; the Seventy Sonnets printed in their original language opposite the English text; twenty-two original Sonnets, with Miscellaneous Poems; and a few translations from Horace and others, to "put in the colophon."

The dedicatory Letter to Captain Burton is manly and friendly, showing an utter absence of rivalry between the fellow-students of Camoens. Future editors of sonnet-collections will do well to note the observations upon the final couplet and Rossini's *coda*. The Seventy Sonnets at last supply the English reader with a scholarly-like version of Camoens' verse. He will dwell, among many others, especially upon 17, 19, 30, 45, the heroic 59, and 346. All the seventy show the conscientious labour, the full comprehension of the original, and the exceptional power of reproducing it, recognised by the reviewers of Mr. Aubertin's *Lusiads*. And we rejoice to hear that this "revelation of Camoens," as a critic justly called it, will soon demand a second edition.

By way of one specimen only we take the famous and difficult No. XIX., and of it the first quatrain. Southeby renders it:—

Meek spirit who so early didst depart
Thou art at rest in heaven! I linger here,
And feed the lonely anguish of my heart;
Thinking of all that made existence dear, &c.

Mr. Hayley's ("Anon"), like the Poet-Laureate, translates the whole into alternate elegiacs, in the so-called Shakespearean sonnet, which is *magnifique*, but in nowise a sonnet:—

Go, gentle spirit! now supremely blest
From sting of pain and struggling virtue go.
From thy immortal seat of heavenly rest
Behold me lingering in a world of woe.

This is but a schoolboy's exercise in prosody without an atom of the original *cachet*.

Captain Burton, in the *Athenaeum* (Feb. 26th), has:—

Ah, gentle soul of me that didst depart
This life of discontent, so sudden ta'en,
Rest there eternal in the heavenly reign,
Live I here pent to play sad mortal part!

Mr. Aubertin writes:—

My gentle spirit! thou who hast departed
So early of this life in discontent,
Rest there ever, in heaven's firmament,
While I live here on earth all broken-hearted, &c.

This is a great success: it renders not only the sense but even the sound of the Portuguese.

Mr. Aubertin introduces his originalities with a kindly and modest sentence in the Preface. The initiatory stanzas, addressed to Camoens, appeared in a Lisbon paper during the Tercentenary, and were much quoted and admired. Most of the detached pieces have been written during the author's travels which have extended far over the "four quarters." "My Two Nightingales" is charming; and calls for more. The trilogy, "Non Credens, Credens and Christianus," will commend itself to many. "The Nile" contains a model line:—

I was Old Egypt's and Old Egypt mine;

at once harmonious and forceful, poetic and true.

To conclude. It is to be hoped that the united labours of two Portuguese scholars will at last make the name of "Portugal's Maro" a household word in England; and that a year or so hence, men of average education will not be heard asking, "Who is Camoens?"

* "Seventy Sonnets of Camoens." Portuguese Text and Translation. With Original Poems, by J. J. Aubertin. (London: C. Kegan Paul and Co., 1, Paternoster Square. 1881.)



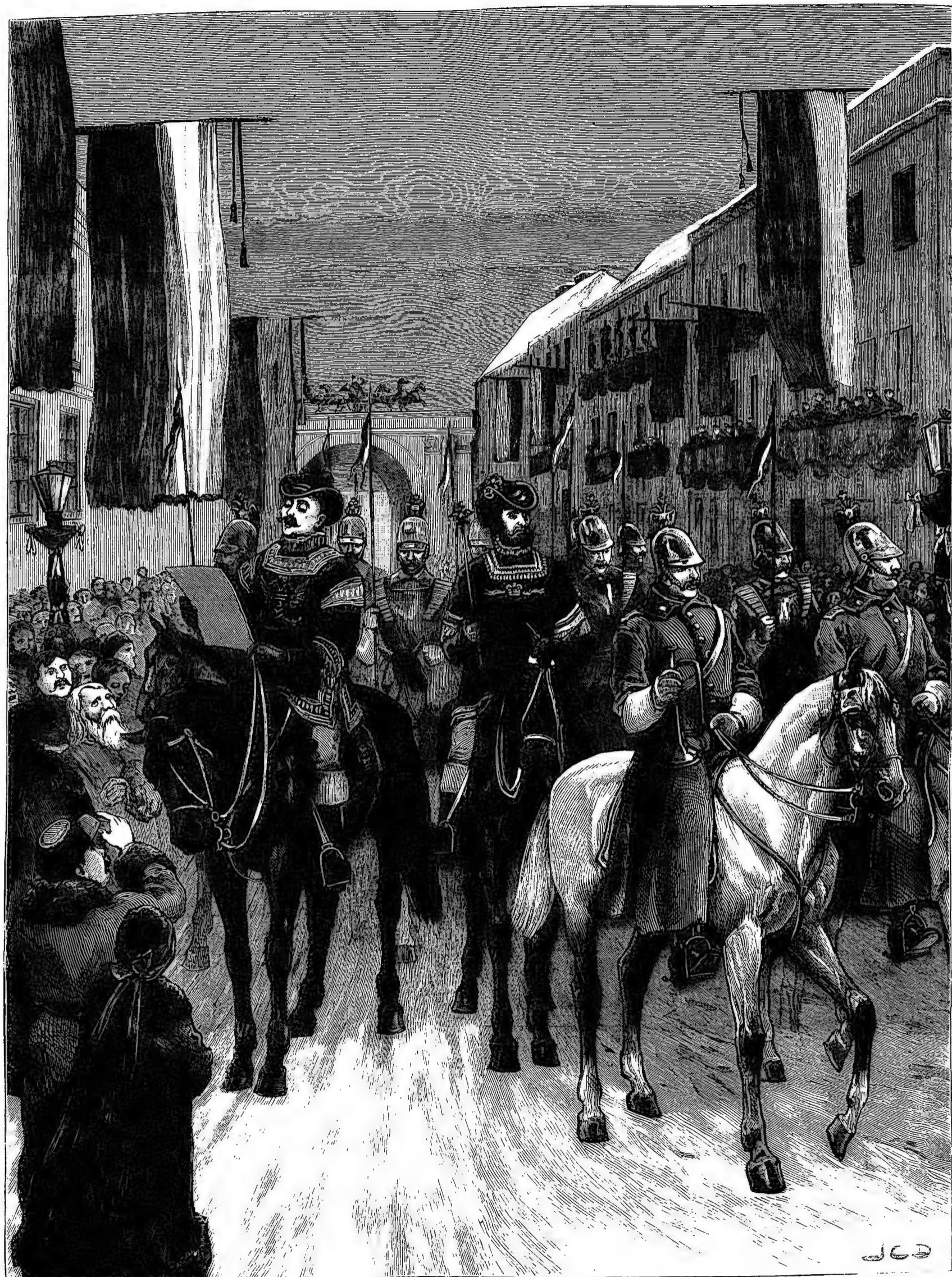
SIGNS OF SPRING.—The rooks are busy building in the trees at Caister.—Lambing in Lincolnshire is progressing satisfactorily.—Almond trees are in full bloom throughout the country, and the lilacs are coming into leaf.—The young wheat, although still backward, has made perceptible improvement in the past fortnight.—Hop dressing is now in progress in Kent and Sussex.—In Hereford and Worcester the hop plant is showing extraordinary vitality for the time of year, and growers hope much for the season's yield.

HORSES AND CATTLE have recently been selling for good prices. Good strong horses for farm work and Aberdeen polled cattle especially have been at a premium. In the demand for horses a reaction is feared, but Scotch cattle and pedigree stock, as a whole, benefit by steady demand both from English and foreign buyers.

SHEAF-BINDERS will receive special attention at the approaching show of the Royal Agricultural Society. Good prizes will be given, but they will be limited to sheaf-binders which do not use wire. Where wire is used, small portions are frequently carried through the threshing machine. In America millers' machinery has been much damaged through wire binding having been used. The restriction was suggested by the judges of implements at the late Carlisle Show.

A NORFOLK FARMER writes to us "Suppose no wheat were allowed to be imported duty free when the price in our markets was under 50s. per quarter, and the tax levied upon it were the difference between the average of the latest corn returns and 50s."

(Continued on page 334)



THE LATE CZAR OF RUSSIA — THE IMPERIAL HERALDS ANNOUNCING THE DATE OF THE FUNERAL



DRAWN BY CHARLES GREEN

In a moment his cane was in one hand and his assailant's cravat was in his other.

THE CHAPLAIN OF THE FLEET

BY WALTER BESANT AND JAMES RICE,

AUTHORS OF "READY-MONEY MORTIBOY," "BY CELIA'S ARBOUR," "THE MONKS OF THELEMA," ETC., ETC.

CHAPTER XI.

HOW SIR MILES RENEWED HIS OFFER

Thus did I get rid of one suitor, knowing that there were still two more in the field, and anxious about my lord's absence, which, I doubted not, was concerned in some way with me. Heavens! if he should find out the secret! If the doctor should communicate to him the thing which I desired to tell at my own time and place!

The Evil One, at this juncture, suggested a temptation of his own.

Suppose a message, which my lord could trust, were to reach him, stating that there would be no attempt to follow up the so-called marriage in the Rules, that he could go his own way, unmolested; that the very certificate and the leaf of the register containing the proof of the marriage would be restored to him—how would that be?

Yet, what sort of happiness could a wife expect who every day had to fear the chance of detection and exposure? Some time or other he would learn that I was the niece of the man who had dealt him this blow; some day he would learn the whole story. Why, there was not only the doctor, but his man Roger, the villain with the pale face, the scarred cheeks, and the red nose. If the doctor were dead, what would prevent such a man from telling the story abroad and proclaiming it to all comers?

For poor Kitty there was only one course open: she must work her way to happiness through shame and confession. Yet with all

the shame and confession there was no certainty that the happiness would follow. A man vehemently loves and desires a woman, but a woman vehemently desires the love and desire of a man. I desired, with all my strength and with all my might, the affections of my lord. His image, his idea, were with me always. For me there was no other man in the world.

But first I had to deal with my present suitors.

Solomon dismissed, and made happy with praises and guineas (a poet is a creature whose vanity seemed always to outweigh all other qualities), I had next to reckon with Sir Miles, who was more reasonable, and yet more persistent.

I knew that he had come to Epsom on purpose to seek me out. That was borne in upon me with a force not to be resisted. He always did me the honour of showing me a preference when we lived under the same roof, and when he would lie in wait for me at the foot of the sanded stairs. And, of course, I liked him. He was good-natured, he had the *air noble*; he would not, certainly, beat his wife or treat her unkindly, although he would probably spend all the money in drink and play. And whether he was rich or poor, in the Rules or in the Prison, or wandering free, he would still be the same easy, careless creature, happy as the sunshine, happier by candlelight, over a bowl of punch.

On the Terrace, where we met him in the afternoon, he was the same, save that his clothes were newer, as when, just as he lounged now beneath the trees, he had then lounged among the bulkheads and stalls of the market, till evening came with the joys of the day. Always with the carriage of a gentleman. Most of

the beaux of Epsom were such gentlemen as claim the title of Esquire by right of their profession as attorneys, barristers, officers, nabobs, rich merchants, and the like. As for their manners, they were easy so long as they were natural, and then they were somewhat barbarous; when they endeavoured to assume the manners of such as Lord Chudleigh, they were awkward. As for the young fellows from the country estates, they were always clowns: they came clowns to the Wells: they put on fine clothes: laughed and grimaced: lost their money at horse-racing and lansquenet, and went home clowns. But Sir Miles was always, even when drunk, a gentleman.

I suppose he had the impudence, at first, to suppose that I was going to seek him out, and distinguish him before all the company with my particular regard. When he discovered that it was difficult to get speech with the Queen of the Wells unless you joined her Court, he came along with the rest, and was speedily as ready with his compliment, his innuendo, his jest, and his anecdote. He was more ready than most because he had seen the great world in his youth, and had caught their manner. The general run of gallants were, it seemed to me, afraid of him. To be sure, he was a big, strong man, could have crunched two or three of the slender beaux between his arms: yet he was the most kind-hearted fellow in the world.

Three days after his arrival, Lord Chudleigh having then been away for a week, and I beginning to wonder what business kept him so long from the apron-strings of Kitty, he invited me to go with him to the Downs to see a match. I would go with him, though

well I knew what he meant ; and, of course, when we got to the Downs, the match was over and the people going home.

"Egad, Miss Kitty," he said, "there is always such a plaguy crowd after your ladyship's heels, that a man gets never a chance of a word with you, save edgeways with the pretty little beaux. Well, I have told Solomon to go to the house and take care of Mrs. Esther. There they are, cheek by jowl, and her handkerchief up to her eyes over his sentimental poetry. You and I can have a talk to ourselves. It is only a quarter of a mile from here to your lodging, but, if you like to come with me by way of the old well and Banstead, we can make it half a mile."

"Thank you, Sir Miles," I said ; "I am not anxious to double that quarter of a mile. Consider, if you please, that I have to get home, dine, and dress for the day."

"Very good. Have it your own way. That, to be sure, you always will have. I think, for my part, that you never looked so nice as when you wore your hair in curls, and a holland frock. Miss Kitty, do you remember a certain day when a baronet, out at elbows, offered you his hand—with nothing in it?"

"I remember it perfectly," I laughed at the recollection. "And oh, Sir Miles, to think of how you looked when you made that descending proposal. It was after a most disgraceful evening—you best know where. You had been brought home singing. Your neck-ribbon was untied, your wig awry, your hand shaky, your cheeks red, and in your left hand a brown mug full of old October. What a suitor !"

"Yes," he replied, laughing, without the least appearance of being offended by my picture. "When in the Rules, I behaved according to the custom of the place. I am no longer in the Rules, but at the Wells. I remember that tankard. Considering that the day is sultry, I wish I had one in my hand this very moment."

"I am sure, Sir Miles, that your conduct under these happier circumstances will reflect greater credit upon you."

"Happier circumstances?" he said. "Well, I suppose so. In the Fleet I could borrow of my cousins a guinea a week or thereabout ; yet borrowing is uncertain and undignified : the manner of living was cheap, but it was rude. Drink there was—more than one had a right to expect ; drink was plentiful, but only the doctor got good punch ; no morals were expected of a Fleet Rules Christian. I know not that things are happier now than then. However, you might think so. Girls never have any philosophy. I have come into a small estate of six hundred pounds a year. It is not so much, by five times six hundred, as what I started with ; still, with six hundred a year, one can live. Do you not think so?"

"It seems to me a very handsome provision," I replied, thinking that Mrs. Esther had about the same.

"Yes, it will do."

He fanned his face with his hat, and begged me to sit down on the grass and listen to him for a moment. Men, even the most careless, like Sir Miles, have a way of becoming suddenly solemn when they ask a woman to become their wife. I know not whether their gravity springs from a sense of their own great worth, or from a feeling of unworthiness ; whether it is a compliment to the woman they woo, or to themselves. Or it may be a confession of the holiness of the state of matrimony, which one would fain hope to be the case.

Sir Miles then, blushing and confused, offered me, for the second time, his hand.

"You see," he said, "the right hand doth no longer shake, nor doth the left hand hold a pot of October. I no longer am carried home at night." He sighed, as if the reminiscence of past times was pleasing but saddening. "I am not any more the man that once I was. Will you, sweet Kitty—will you be Lady Lackington?"

"I cannot," I said.

"There is an income of six hundred pounds a year," he went on. "I believe there is a small house somewhere ; we could live in it rent-free. You were always fond of hens and pigs, and milk, flowers, apples, and all these things. I will keep two hundred pounds for myself, and give you four. With two hundred I shall have to manage, once a week or so, a little hazard, or a trifling lansquenet."

"What?" I asked. "Marry a gamester?"

"What matter as to that, when he will settle his money on his wife? Think of it, Kitty. I am a baronet, though a poor one, and as good a family as any in Norfolk. Why, the Lackingtons, as everybody knows, were on their lands before the Conqueror."

"And if it is not enough to be a gamester, you are also—oh, Sir Miles! the shame of it—"

"We gentlemen of Norfolk," he replied, without any appearance of shame, "are honest tapers all. I deny it not. Yet what matters such a trifle in the habits of a man? Did any gentleman in the county drink harder than my father? Yet he was hale and tough at sixty, and would have lived to eighty but for fall he got riding home one night after dinner, having a cask, or thereabouts, of port inside him, by reason of which he mistook an open quarry for the lane which should have led him home, and therefore broke his neck."

"So that, if his wife loved him, as no doubt she did, it was the drink that robbed her of a husband. Your tale hath a useful moral, Sir Miles."

"Come, pretty Puritan, look at me. I am twenty-nine—in my thirtieth year ; strong and hearty, if I do get drunk of an evening. What then? Do you want to talk to your husband all night? Better know that he is safe asleep, and likely to remain asleep till the drink is gone out of his head."

"Oh, the delights of wedlock! To have your husband brought home every night by four stout fellows!"

"Evening drink hurts no man. Have I a bottle-nose? Do my hands shake? Are my cheeks fat and pale? Look at me, Kitty." He held out his arms and laughed.

"Yes, Sir Miles," I replied ; "I think you are a very lusty fellow, and, in a wrestling-bout, I should think few could stand against you. But as a husband, for the reasons I have stated, I say—No!"

"Take the four hundred, Kitty, and make me happy. I love thee, my girl, with all my heart."

"Sir Miles, I cannot do it honestly. Perhaps I wish I could."

"You won't?" He looked me full in the face. "I see you won't. You have such a tell-tale, straightforward face, Kitty, that it proclaims the truth always. I believe you are truth itself. They pulled you out of a well, down in your country place, in a bucket, and then went about saying you had been born."

"Thank you, Sir Miles."

"Am I, therefore, to go hang myself in my garters, or yours, if you will give them to me?"

"If you do, I shall be the first to run and cut you down."

"Sweet it were," he murmured, "to be even cut down by your fair hand. If one was sure that you would come in time—"

"You will be reasonable, dear sir, and you will neither say nor do anything silly."

"I do not suppose I shall pine away in despair ; nor shall I hang my head ; nor shall I go about saying that there are as good fish in the sea as ever came out of it, because, when we fished you, we fished the best. And I swear, Kitty"—here he did swear after men's profane way, but he needed not to have sworn so loudly or so long—"that truly, sweet Kitty, thou art the fairest, the loveliest, and the best fish that ever came out of any sea—a bewitching mermaid! I wish thee a good husband."

On Stella's lap he laid his head,
And, looking in her eyes,
He cried, "Remember, when I'm dead,
That I deserved the prize."

"Thank you, Sir Miles. A shorter and a less profane oath would surely have better graced the subject."

"It cannot be graced too much," he said, as if to swear lustily was to confer honour upon the woman he thought to love. "For your sake, Kitty, I would even forswear punch, tobacco, and strong waters ; drink nothing but October ; and never get drunk save on Saturday nights : for your sake would I go live in the country among the cocks and the hens, the ducks and the pigs : for you would I go religiously to church every Sunday at forenoon, and expect the parson for the beef and pudding after the sermon : for your sake would I gamble no more, save once in a way when quarter-day brought the rents."

"That would be a mighty reformation indeed, Sir Miles."

"Now, however, since you will not have me, I shall play with four hundred a year out of the six. But I will be careful, all the same : I shall punt low, and never lose more than a guinea a night."

Thus I was rid of my second suitor. Sir Miles ceased to attend the court of followers who attended on the Terrace, but sat all day in the card-room, playing. From time to time he met and saluted me.

"Be not afraid," he would say, "on my behalf. The card-tables are more pleasant than the air under the trees, and I think the players are better company than your priggish popinjays. As for my habits, fair Kitty, pattern of virtue, they have become virtuous. I am never drunk—well, not often—and you have brought me luck. I have won five hundred guineas from a nabob. Think of the joy, when he pays me, of losing it all again!"

CHAPTER XII.

HOW HARRY TEMPLE PROVED HIS VALOUR

THUS were poet and baronet reduced to submission. The third suitor was harder to manage, because he turned sulky. Sportsmen have said that a fish, or a bird, or a fox, when he sulks, is then most difficult to secure. Thus, to be captured or cajoled, the victim must be in a good temper.

Now Harry Temple went in gloomy indignation, as was visible to all eyes. He walked alone upon the Terrace, or sat alone in the Assembly Room, a Killjoy to behold. That would not have mattered, because no girl feels much sorrow for a man who foolishly sulks because he cannot marry her ; but everybody knew, or thought they knew, the cause of his heavy looks. Peggy Baker said I had thrown him over for the sake of a lord, who, she added, kindly, would certainly throw me over in turn. Some of the company cried shame on the flinty-hearted woman who could let so pretty a fellow go love-sick.

"Kitty," his melancholy seemed to say, "you left us a simple country girl : you would have been proud of my addresses had you understood my meaning"—this was quite true : "you are now a woman of fashion, and you have ambition ; your head is turned with flattery : you aspire to nothing short of a coronet. In those days you were satisfied with the approval of your looking-glass and your conscience : now you would draw all men to your heels, and are not happy unless you make them all miserable." But that was not true at all ; I did not wish to make men miserable ; and it was nothing to me whether they were miserable or happy. I thought of one man only, as it is natural to a woman in love.

"It," I said to him one day, being tired of such exhibition of temper, "if you do not like the place, why make yourself unhappy by staying here? Cambridge, methinks, would be a more fitting abode for you, where there are books and scholars : not a watering-place, where people come together to amuse themselves and be merry."

"I shall stay here," he replied, "until I find there is no hope for me."

"Oh, silly Harry!" I said ; "is there no other woman in the world who will make you happy, except poor Kitty Pleydell?"

"No—none," he shook his melancholy wig, the tie at the back of his head wagging sorrowfully.

How was it possible to have any sympathy with so rueful a lover? Why, it made one ridiculous. Everybody said that Harry Temple was in love with me, that I, for the worst of motives, viz., to catch a coronet, refused him, and that he was an excellent match, especially for one who was nothing better than a country parson's daughter.

"I believe only a curate, my dear," Peggy Baker would say. "No doubt she lived on bacon fat and oatmeal, and knitted her own stockings. And yet she refuses Harry Temple, a pretty fellow, though studious, and a man whom any of us, gentlewomen born, would be glad to encourage."

"Oh!" I said to him, "why do you not go? Why do you look reproaches on me?"

"Because," he replied, "I still love you, unworthy as you are."

"Unworthy? Mr. Temple, methinks that a little civility—"

"Yes, unworthy. I say that a girl who throws over her oldest friends with the almost avowed intention of securing a title, without knowing anything of the character of the man who bears it—"

"This is too much," I said. "First, sir, let me know what there is against Lord Chudleigh's character. Tell me, upon your word, sir, do you know anything at all? Is he not a man of principle and honour?"

"I know nothing against him. I dare say that he is what you think."

"Well, sir ; and in the next place, how dare you accuse me of deliberately trying to attract my lord? Do you know me so well as to read my soul? Do you know me so well as to be justified to yourself when you attribute such a motive to me?"

"What other motive can I attribute to you?" he asked bitterly.

"Is he not a peer? Is he not rich?"

"Oh, Harry!" I cried, "you will drive me mad between you. Cannot a peer be a good man? Cannot a girl—I say—may not a girl—Harry, you force me to say it—is it not possible for a girl to fall in love with a man who is even a peer and a rich man? Go, sir! you have humbled me and made me say words of which I am ashamed. Go, if you please, and tell all the world what I have said."

Then he fell to asking my forgiveness. He was, he said, wretched indeed : he had long lost my love.

"Man!" I said, "you never had it!"—and now he was like to lose my friendship.

This talk about friendship between a man and woman when both are young seems to me a mighty foolish thing. For if the woman is in love with some one else her friendship is, to be sure, worth just nothing at all, because she must needs be for ever thinking of the man she loves. There is but one man in all the world for her, and that man not he who would fain be her friend. Therefore she gives not a thought to him. Now if a man be in love with one woman and "in friendship" with another, I think that either his love for one must be a poor lukewarm passion, which I, for one, would not be anxious to receive, or his friendship for the other must be a chilly sort of thing.

However, one must not be angry for ever : Harry Temple had made me say a thing which I could not have said to any woman—not even Nancy—and was ashamed of having said : yet when he begged forgiveness I accorded it to him. Harry, I was sure, would not repeat what I had said.

Somebody about this time wrote another of those little worthless epigrams or poems, and handed it about.

Kitty, a fair Dissenter grown,
Sad pattern doth afford:
The Temple's laws she will not own,
Yet still doth love her Lord.

"Do not be angry, Kitty," said Nancy. "This is the penalty of

greatness. What would Peggy Baker give to be lampooned? Harry is a fool, my dear. Any woman could tell, with half an eye, that you are not the least in love with him. What are the eyes of men like? Are they so blinded by vanity as not to be able to see, without being told, when they are disagreeable objects for a woman's contemplation?"

"I condole with you, Miss Pleydell," said Peggy Baker. "To be the victim of an irreligious and even impious epigram must be truly distressing to one, like yourself, brought up in the bosom of the Church."

"Thank you, dear Miss Peggy," I replied, returning her smiling courtesy. "The epigram's wound is easily healed. Is it true that you are yourself the author?"

"Oh Lord, no!" she replied. "I am but a poor poet, and could not for the world write or say anything to wound another woman's feelings."

"She would not, indeed, dear Kitty," cried Nancy, who was with me. "It is not true—though you may hear it so stated—that Miss Peggy said yesterday on the Parade that your father was only a curate, and that you made your own stockings. She is the kindest and most generous of women. We think so, truly, dear Miss Peggy. We would willingly, if we could, send you half-a-dozen or so of our swains to swell your train. But they will not leave us."

Was there ever so saucy a girl?

Miss Peggy bit her lips, and I think she would have liked to box Nancy's ears there and then, had she dared. But a few gentlemen were standing round us, laughing at Nancy's sally. So she refrained.

"Oh, Miss Nancy!" she replied, trying to laugh, "you are indeed kind. But I love not the attentions of men at secondhand. You are welcome to all my cast-off lovers. Pray, Miss Pleydell, may I ask when we may expect his lordship back again?"

"I do not know," I replied. "Lord Chudleigh does not send me letters as to his movements or intentions."

"I said so," she replied, triumphant for the moment. "I sail so this morning at the book-shop, when they were asking each other what news of Lord Chudleigh. Some said Miss Pleydell would surely know : I said that I did not think there was anything between his lordship and Miss Pleydell : and I ventured to predict that you knew no more about his movements than myself."

"Indeed," said Nancy, coming to my assistance. "I should have thought you were likely to know more than Kitty."

"Indeed, why?"

"Because," said Nancy laughing, "his lordship, who is, I believe, one of your cast-off lovers, might perhaps have written to you for old acquaintance's sake."

Miss Peggy had no reason for loving me, who had dethroned her, but she had reason for hating Nancy, who always delighted in bringing her to open shame.

"What have I done to you, Miss Levett?" she asked her once, when they were alone. "You are not the reigning Toast : I am not jealous of you : you have done no harm to me, nor I to you. Yet you delight in saying the most ill-natured things."

"You have done nothing to me, Miss Peggy," Nancy told her. "But you have done a good deal to my poor Kitty, who is innocent itself. You have slandered her : you have traduced her family, which everybody knows is as good as your own, though her father was a country clergyman and a younger son : you have denied her beauty : you have written anonymous letters to her, calumniating a young nobleman who, I verily believe, is a paragon of peers. No doubt, too, you have written letters to him calumniating her character. Truly, with the best intentions, you could not do much to hurt her, for my Kitty is above suspicion."

"Very well, miss," said Miss Peggy ; "very well : we understand each other. As for your charges about anonymous letters—"

"We keep them all," said Nancy ; "and with them a letter written and signed by yourself. And I think I shall show the letters about on the Terrace."

"If you dare—" but here she checked herself, though in a great rage. "You will do as you please, Miss Levett. I shall know, some day, how to revenge myself for your insults. As for the curate's girl, I warrant her innocence and her being 'above suspicion'—indeed!—to be pretty hypocrisy and pretence. As if any woman was above suspicion!"

"Oh!" said Nancy, as a passing shot, "nobody, I assure you, ever thought Miss Peggy Baker or any of her friends above suspicion. Let us do you, dear miss, so much justice. You shall not find us ungrateful or unmindful of the benefits you have conferred, or are about to confer, upon us. Malice and spite, when they are impotent, are amusing, like the tricks of a monkey in a cage, or a bear dancing at a stake."

Such angry passions as these disturbed the peaceful atmosphere of the Wells. What use was it for Mr. Nash, of Bath, to deprive the gentlemen of their swords when he left the ladies their tongues?

"The tongue can no man tame : it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."

The accident which followed, a day or two after this, may or may not have been instigated by an enemy. Nancy always declared it was, but then she may have been prejudiced, and we never got at the truth.

Every Friday or Saturday there came down from London a coach full of gentlemen from the City or the Inns of Court, to spend two or three days at the Wells. These were our most noisy visitors : they pushed into the coteries, and endeavoured to form part of the trains of the beauties in vogue : they drank too much wine : gambled fiercely for small sums ; and turned the quiet decorum of the assembly into a Babel of riot, noise, loud laughter, coarse jokes, and ill-breeding. The Sunday was thus spoiled : those of us who loved quiet stayed, for the most part, at home when we were not in church, or wandered on the quiet Downs, where we were undisturbed. Solomon Stallabras attended us on these occasions, and we turned our conversation on grave matters. I exhorted him, for instance, to direct his splendid genius to the creation of a sacred epic, which should be to the eighteenth century what Milton's "Paradise Lost" was to the seventeenth. He promised to think of it, and we talked over various plans. The Deluge, St. Paul, the Apocalypse, were discussed in turn

he was choleric ; and he was strong, being bred and brought up to country pursuits. In a moment his cane was in one hand and his assailant's cravat was in his other. Then he began to beat the man with his cane.

The others stood stupid with amazement. Sir Miles, who was on his way to the tables, and had seen the beginning of the fray, stepped to the front.

"Who interferes with Mr. Temple has to do with me," he shouted. "Fair play, gentlemen. Let them fight it out with fists like men, first—and stick each other afterwards with rapiers like Frenchmen, if they like. Gentlemen, I am Sir Miles Lackington, Baronet, at your service, if anybody wants a little breathing."

He held his cane in readiness, but the other gentlemen kept aloof. When Harry had spent his rage, because, so far as I can learn, there was no resistance, he shook off his opponent, adjusted his wig, which was a little deranged, and turned quietly to Sir Miles :

"You will oblige, Sir Miles? Thank you. Gentlemen all—your servant."

He resumed his walk, lounging among the trees, the women looking after him with a mixture of fright and admiration, as calm as if nothing had happened.

The man who was beaten was followed off the field by his friends. Nor could Sir Miles get speech of them that evening. In the morning, when he went to make his murderous appointment, he found they were gone. Fighting, it would seem, was not to their liking ; though an insult to a harmless gentleman was quite in their way.

"I am sorry, Harry," I said honestly, because a woman cannot help respecting a man who is brave and strong, "that the taking of my name has caused you this trouble."

"I am sorry, too," he said, sadly. "Yet I blame them not, Kitty."

"But you do blame me," I replied. "Harry, if, in a little while—somehow—I am able to show that I could not, even if I wished, grant the thing you want—if—I say—I can make that quite clearly and plainly to you—will you promise to be reconciled to what cannot be avoided?"

"If, Kitty—what an if! But you ask the impossible. There is no reason, there cannot be. Why, such a thing is impossible."

"But again—if—Harry, promise me so much."

He laughed grimly.

"Well, I promise."

"Give me your hand upon it," I said. "Now we shall be friends indeed. Why, you silly Harry, you let the days go by, and you neglect the most beautiful girls who could perhaps make you a hundred times as happy as Kitty, all because you deck her out with imaginary virtues which she doth not possess. Foolish Harry! Open your eyes and look about you. What do you see?"

I, for my part, saw pretty Nancy running along the walk to meet us. Love was in her eyes, grace in her action; youth, beauty, sweetness in her comely shape, her rosy cheeks, her pretty smile, her winning tongue, her curly locks. She was in morning dress, without hoop or patch. Through the leaves of the trees the sun shone softly upon her, covering her with a soft light which might have been that in which Venus stole along the shore in a golden mist to meet her son—of which my father had read to me. She was pretty, she was sweet; far prettier than I, who was so tall; far sweeter than I, who was full of evil passions and shame, being a great sinner.

"Foolish Harry!" I said. "What do you see?"

He only looked me in the face and replied :

"I see nothing but the beautiful Kitty."

"Oh, blind, blind!"

(To be continued)



It is some years now since Mr. Robert Buchanan wrote his first novel—"The Shadow of the Sword." Really great work, such as that was has always to be waited for, and is not turned out once or twice a year like the chronic fiction of the usual machine pattern. But then its memory remains, and the reader who has ever once read "The Shadow of the Sword" will be a little surprised, and at first by no means pleasantly, by Mr. Buchanan's "A Child of Nature" (3 vols.: Bentley and Son). It seems hardly credible that the two novels should have come from the same hand. The first had all the air of being written by a man charged to the full with the enthusiasm of a great subject, and so, by main strength, fascinating into interest the tamest of readers and the most unwilling of admirers. It was the splendid tragedy of a battle waged by one man against mankind and nature combined—as unlike the sentimental romance as the ocean is unlike a saucer. On the other hand, in "A Child of Nature" Mr. Buchanan has gone to work as if he had come to the conclusion that, after all, it is not worth while to write great novels in the face of the inexhaustible demand for little ones. So he has turned out the usual sort of Gaelic story, only differing in character from its fellows by being a good deal better than most of them. When we have once realised the fact that "A Child of Nature" professes to be nothing higher than this, we may put our first bitter disappointment away, and gain from the book a great deal of wholesome pleasure. Oddly enough, considering the hands from which it comes, there is something feminine, in the best sense of the word, about both plot and style. The manner in which Graham Macdonald storms and conquers the heart of Ethel Sedley is true and natural: but Graham is a woman's ideal, rather than a man's, of what such a man would be and feel. On the other hand, Ethel, and her contrast, Mina, throw their two lovers entirely into the shade. All the incidental sketches of character and coast scenery in the far North are admirable, so far as they go, but we think Mr. Buchanan has carried reticence in description a little too far. It looks as if he had set himself the task of writing a popular novel, and had, with that view, made a point of saying nothing which might possibly raise the work above what he has taken to be the popular level. It is not altogether agreeable to read an author who has the air of consciously writing down to the assumed level of his readers. Popular the novel is certain to be, and that deservedly. At the same time, we feel convinced that Mr. Buchanan has in this instance done justice neither to his own genius nor to the intellectual calibre of readers in general. One would have been content with lower work from almost any other novelist: one has a right to demand infinitely nobler and more durable work from the pen that wrote "The Shadow of the Sword."

The Deceased Wife's Sister is not pleasant to meet as the heroine of a novel in three volumes. There is always an atmosphere about her which seems inconsistent with sense, with humour, and even with the most ordinary literary skill; and if deceased wives' sisters in real life at all resemble their representatives in fiction, it is simply wonderful that anybody in the world should want to marry them. "Fixed as Fate" is the title of a novel by Mrs. Houston (3 vols.: Hurst and Blackett), in which the heroine is left waiting for the passing of that Bill which is surely about as unsatisfactory a subject for romance as can well be found in the world. As her deceased sister's husband is some twenty years older than she, her prospects cannot be called encouraging. As always, so in this case, this particular topic implies an excessive amount of watery sentiment and a tendency to incorrect quotations, and to the use of French words when English

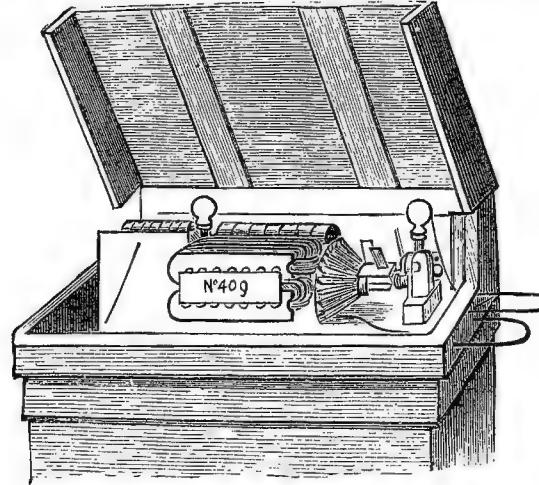
ones would serve a great deal better. Perhaps, however, all novels which have for their purpose the righting of a real or supposed social wrong touching the law of marriage are marked more or less with the same brand. The truth is that an extraordinary deficiency in both sense and humour must be at the root of every attempt to set such matters right by means of fiction. Nobody would attempt to do so who is in any real and sufficient way qualified to deal with such questions, while the vistas of sentiment which they open are a perilous temptation to writers who are the reverse of qualified. The story of "Fixed as Fate" is weariful and uninteresting even beyond what has become usual. But then it is never upon literary merits that ladies care to rely who take any branch of the marriage law for the subject of sentimental study.

"Idonea," by Anne Beale (3 vols.: Hurst and Blackett), is, if judged by the strictly average standard, a fairly good novel. This is not intended for high praise, beyond the limits of the very moderate level to which the book belongs. From positive faults "Idonea" is remarkably free, as often happens when positive merits are also few. The most noticeable defect is the overcrowding of characters not sufficiently unlike or life-like to make them easily distinguishable from one another. But there are some welcome exceptions, and some of the subordinate characters show considerable power of observation, with some skill in reproducing what has been observed. The talent is not at all uncommon, especially when directed towards little outward oddities, but it is by no means always turned to such good account as in "Idonea." The story is at once common-place and unlikely, but not uninteresting.

SWAN'S ELECTRIC LIGHT AT CRAIGSIDE

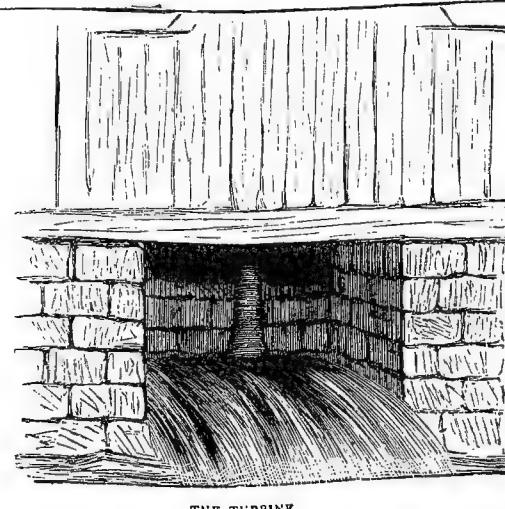
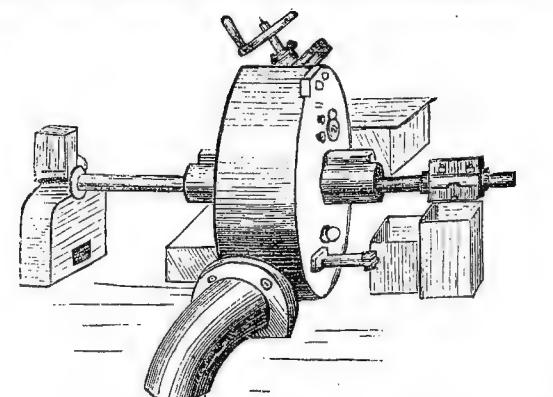
Two years ago Mr. Swan, of Newcastle, exhibited before the Literary and Philosophical Society, under the presidency of Sir William Armstrong, a new form of electric lamp, in which the light was produced by the white heat of a continuous carbon conductor enclosed in a small hermetically-sealed glass bulb. Many previous attempts had been made to utilise the incandescence of carbon, but never before had the difficulty of preventing the wasting of the carbon been so effectually surmounted. The distinguishing features of Mr. Swan's lamp were: its extreme simplicity, the durability of the carbon filament, and the economy with which light was produced.

Since then Mr. Swan has devoted himself assiduously to improving his lamp, and he now has succeeded in bringing it into actual use for house and shop-lighting. Mr. Stearn, of Birkenhead, who aided Mr. Swan in the elaboration of his lamp, has lighted his house in this manner for several months past, and the business establishment of Mawson and Swan at Newcastle has been thus lighted uninterruptedly since October. But the largest and most complete application of the system has been the lighting of Sir William G. Armstrong's mansion at Cragside, which is depicted in our illustrations. At Cragside the electric current is generated by one of Siemens' dynamo-electric machines shown below,



THE DYNAMO-ELECTRIC MACHINE

to which the motive power is supplied by a turbine of six-horse power worked by the overflow of a lake three-quarters of a



THE TURBINE.

mile distant from the house. The dynamo machine is placed close to the turbine, and the electricity is conducted to the house by a double line of copper wires.

Mr. Swan's lamp is exceedingly simple. It consists merely of a bulb of glass about three inches in diameter, containing a thin carbon con-

ductor supported by two platinum wires, which, where they pass out of the bulb, are hermetically sealed into its wall by fusion of the glass around the wires. The air contained in the bulb is thoroughly exhausted.

The chief peculiarity of this lamp is the wonderfully thin and elastic filament of carbon, as thin as a hair, and almost as hard and springy as a steel wire. When the electric current traverses this filament it becomes white hot, and emits a soft and perfectly steady light. As the bulb contains no air or other gas capable of combining with carbon the filament does not burn away, but lasts without change for many months,—indeed, it becomes harder by continued use. The power of the light depends on the size of the carbon filament—the "wick" so to speak—and on the quantity of electric current flowing through it. The light emitted is totally devoid of that dazzling brilliancy which has generally characterised

electric light of the old style, and therefore does not necessitate the screening of the light by opal or ground glass, though slightly frosted globes are mostly used at Cragside. Unlike the ordinary form of electric light, the Swan system can be divided absolutely to any extent without sacrifice of economy. Each lamp at Cragside has the power of two or three large gas lights. But it is just as easy, and no less economical, to make the lamps either much smaller or much more powerful. There are forty-five lamps in position. The current is turned on or off the lamps by small switches attached to the wall. It suffices to give one of these a slight turn, and the lamps immediately light up, and to reverse the movement and they all as quickly die out.

Sir William Armstrong has taken a warm interest in the installation of the light, and has himself directed all the details, and brought his wonted ingenuity to bear in adapting the new lamp to previously existing fittings; for example, the centre pendant in the dining-room was formerly used for an oil-lamp, this has been utilised to hold six Swan lamps; when these are lighted the effect on the table beneath is most beautiful. The pendant in the bay of the dining-room holds two other lamps.

A similar and equally happy adaptation of old lamp-fittings is shown in the vase lamp, Fig. 3, one of four (in addition to the pendant in the bay, which contains four lamps) employed for lighting the library. Each of the vase lamps has its proper place around the room, but is removable; they are so arranged by Sir William as to be lighted and extinguished by an exceedingly simple mechanical action. The picture gallery is lighted by twenty lamps contained in five frosted glass globes hanging from the arched roof. The peculiar suitability of a Swan lamp to the lighting of pictures is here demonstrated under the best possible conditions, for the pictures contained in the Cragside gallery are all of them masterpieces; the "Chill October" of Millais and a lurid sunset by Vicat Cole appear to equal advantage seen by the pure and steady light emitted by these lamps. There is a total absence of the prevailing violet light which characterises the ordinary electric light.

The sketches from which our engravings are taken are by H. H. Emmerson.

NUMBERING THE PEOPLE

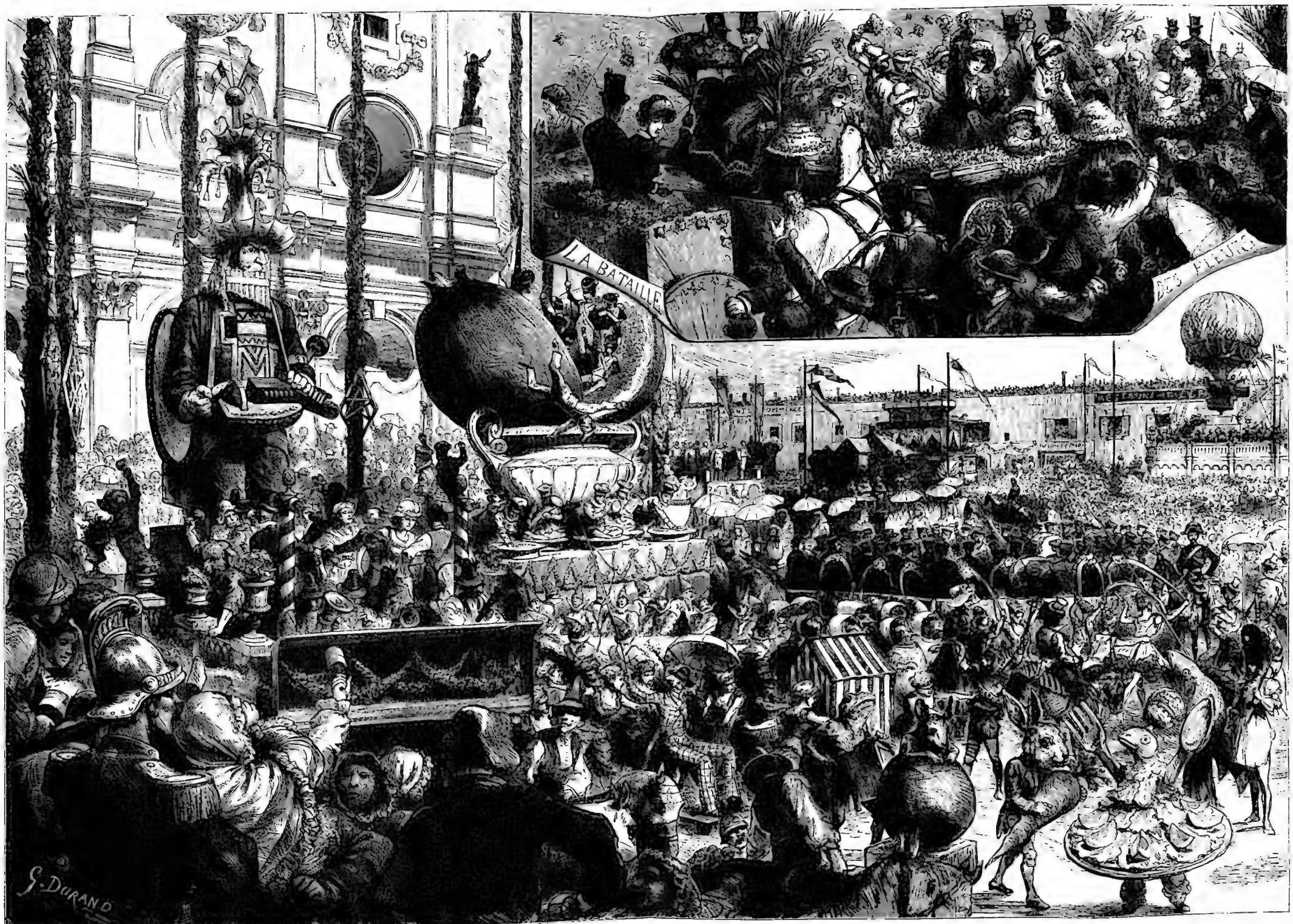
As may well be imagined, it is a long and arduous task to take the census in so populous a country as our own, and the whole operation occupies a period of considerably over two years, the proceedings being legalised by an Act of Parliament. For the occasion a complete system and a numerous staff have to be organised, and during the past few months there has been an enormous pressure of work at Craig's Court, where the Census Office is located, under the direction of the Registrar-General, in preparing for to-morrow's enumeration.

It may be stated that in making selection of Sunday evening for the time when census schedules should be filled up, the authorities are actuated by the belief that on that day more than any other the scattered members of the family are gathered together. During this week the various enumerators throughout the country have been busily engaged in leaving at each house on their "beat," so to speak, the schedules which it is the duty of each householder to fill up on Sunday, the particulars required being the name, sex, age, rank, profession or occupation, condition (conjugal), relation to head of family, and birthplace of every living person who will abide in his house on that day, besides which it must also be stated whether any of the persons thus enumerated are blind, deaf and dumb, imbecile, or lunatic.

On Monday commences the collection of these papers, and in order to complete this work it is reckoned that about 35,000 collectors, or enumerators, as they are technically called, will be required. As may be imagined, these temporary officials require to be persons of great tact, civility, and patience, for in the performance of their duties they meet with many cases of resistance in which their powers in this respect have to be called into play. In addition to these enumerators, the heads of charitable and public institutions such as prisons, workhouses, &c., having over 200 inmates, are required to furnish the necessary information with regard to those under their care, while in the case of English subjects residing abroad, the information is obtained from the Foreign Secretary, and like particulars, too, are furnished, so far as they relate to persons who would come under the cognisance of their departments, by the Admiralty, the Horse Guards, &c. In short, such steps are adopted as ensure a complete census being taken of the Channel Islands, of the Mercantile Marine at home and abroad, of the Army and Navy, and of British colonies and possessions. As regards India, it is found necessary to take a special census.

In Scotland and Ireland, as is probably known, the census is taken quite apart from that in England, coming under the jurisdiction of the respective Registrars-General of Births, Marriages, and Deaths in these countries, and in each case, as for England and Wales, a special Act of Parliament is required to legalise the right to require of the inhabitants the particulars asked for. It is somewhat to be feared that in Ireland, owing to its present disturbed condition, some trouble may arise in completing the census, especially as the uneducated Irishman possesses but a faint and hazy idea of the object of the proceedings, and finds it difficult to dissociate the census papers from those relating to rates and taxes—which they somewhat resemble. In Wales, it may be remarked, there are so many persons totally unacquainted with the English language that a large number of schedules has to be issued in the Welsh language, nearly 53,000 such having been required in 1871.

It may be interesting to notice now some of the peculiar and stubborn ideas which have been entertained in regard to past censuses. In this country the liberty of the subject is so jealously regarded and considered that anything at all approaching to what may be termed the inquisitorial finds very little favour with the people, and hence the origin of many objections to the census, notwithstanding that the information so obtained is received in strict confidence, and is "never used for the purpose of gratifying curiosity," as the schedule itself distinctly informs the householder. Yet so perverse in this respect are some persons, and so great is their aversion to impart information of this character, that they will frequently go to the greatest lengths in order to avoid compliance with the Census Act, as in the case of a rich old lady, which came under the notice of the enumerators in 1871, who positively refused



THE CARNIVAL AT NICE

to furnish the particulars required in the schedule, and was so determined to resist that she bolted and barred her doors and windows, and forbade all admittance to the enumerator. Nevertheless she subsequently proved, like many other old ladies, susceptible to the influence of gentle persuasion, for a soothing letter from the Registrar-General had the effect of eliciting the desired information. The plan of filling up the census schedules, and forwarding them privately to the Registrar-General is one not unfrequently resorted to, with the notion of ensuring greater secrecy, and gives rise, as may be supposed, to an immense amount of unnecessary trouble in the huge process of counting the population. Consequently only in very special cases can such irregularities be condoned. Of course such experiences go to prove in what a large number of cases the objections to the census spring from simple ignorance and prejudice, much of which might easily be overcome if householders would only take the trouble to read carefully the notices printed on their schedules. There are some instances, however, in which refusal to impart the required information is prompted by religious scruples, as was notably so in the case of a gentleman of landed property, who, in 1871, declared he would sooner cease to exist than be party to an offence, for which David suffered, namely, "numbering the people," and, as it was found that the particulars could be obtained through other means, his scruples were respected. Such old-fashioned ideas will, however, no doubt, gradually die out with each succeeding census.

Notwithstanding that figures are usually regarded by the majority of people as dry and uninteresting, a census yields many results of a lighter, and even in some cases of a humorous character. Thus a past census showed conclusively that in the matter of penmanship the English as a nation were very much below the mark, and much trouble was occasioned by the indistinct writing on the part of householders, especially in the case of such letters as "n," "w," "e," "i," &c. On another occasion it was forcibly proved that the most prone to mistakes were the educated classes, and of these the clergy were found to be the worst. In regard to personal nomenclature, past censuses have yielded some ludicrous instances. Thus in 1871 it came to light that we had amongst us a young lady gifted with the following extraordinarily regal appellation:—"Albertina Regina Victoria Gotha Boult," who, if there be anything in a name, would doubtless have found a fitting husband in the person of "Prince Albert Daniel Gamon," notwithstanding that he was only an agricultural labourer. It would also appear that many of the lower classes are of opinion that a name is at least a substitute for a fortune, if we may judge by the case of a labourer who had, as the last census revealed, endowed his daughter with the following marvellous string of names, "Turnerica Henrica Ulrica Da Gloria De Lavinia Rebecca Turner." Even the baptismal titles of Miss Wadge were a degree less pretentious, consisting only of "Hostilinia Ophiginia Maria Hypihile." It will certainly be curious to note in connection with the next census whether these personages still survive under the burden of their top-heavy names, and whether their parents have since had any further opportunities of displaying their eccentric ingenuity, and if so, in what new direction their odd fancies have been shaped.

A. G. BOWIE.



MOURNING is so general this spring-tide that a few words concerning this sombre attire will not be out of place. There is almost an universal desire to dispense entirely with crape even when mourning for those who are nearest and dearest to us. The deepest mourning in Russia is made of flannel, without any trimming, a very sensible method of showing grief, for it is naturally supposed that during the first few months following upon a severe bereavement the mourners are content to stay quietly at home. The first change is to serge and other dull materials, still without crape, and sparingly trimmed; the third change is to silk and crape, with white muslin or net ruffles and fichus. In buying crape it must be borne in mind that the coarser the texture the better; there is no greater mistake than to buy cheap crape, as it soon becomes rusty; the same advice applies to crape cloth, which is one of the most durable materials used, and needs no trimming beyond itself, but a fair price must be paid for it. One rule may be invariably followed: the deeper the mourning the plainer it should be made. For the third change, and complimentary mourning, a large amount of jet and bead embroidery is used; the scintillating fringe is as popular as ever, black satin Merveilleux with black broché or velvet brocade make a very stylish walking costume. Mother Hubbard mantles are much worn this season; some are made with a deep pleated flounce, put on under the hem to appear as though the dress flounce were coming below; this is by no means a bad plan, as they may be worn over any dress. Opera mantles are made in this shape, and certainly they possess the merit of keeping their wearers warm. We were recently shown one of deep red satin embroidered in dead gold beads, and lined with dead gold satin; it was for a tall, very slight figure, and certainly looked very graceful, but short square figures must avoid these mantles, lest they too closely resemble the ancient dame from whom the design was taken.

To return to the mourning: young people attending classes during the showery month of April will find nothing more durable than black serge trimmed with tubular military braid, on the short round skirt a kilted flounce about six inches deep, half long jacket trimmed, as is the front of the skirt, *à la militaire*; a plain felt or velvet hat looks best with this costume, a fanciful bonnet or hat has a bad effect. A light ulster is very useful for protecting a new costume; it should not be made very tight or with elaborate fastenings, but so that it can be easily taken off before entering a drawing or concert room. *Airopes* of short dresses, even when a small train is worn, they are made sufficiently short in front to show the insteps and the daintily embroidered stockings and satin shoes; two of the most expensive items of female attire at the present time are the stockings and shoes, which for evening dress should match the dress if not being of the same material.

There is a decided tendency to make costumes with a fulness in the skirts which is daily increasing, long coat bodices of stamped or plain velvet made with square lappets are worn both for out and indoors; they look very stylish for little girls, who wear their skirts what our grandmothers would have called indecorously short.

There is nothing very new in materials as yet, velvets, plain and fancy, satin stamped, embossed, or plain for evening wear, and a great variety of fine soft woolen materials for morning dress, lace, black and white, is profusely used for trimming, Spanish blonde is very fashionable for bonnets, mantillas, and trimmings of every description. As is generally the case at this time of year, floral bonnets, either made entirely of flowers or with a small satin crown, are popular with young people. Gustave Janet designed a hat of the Rembrandt type for the *Revue de la Mode*, which is not only very graceful but most becoming. The model was of grey straw lined with red velvet, and trimmed with steel embroidered lace, and a fringe of steel beads falling on the hair, a grey and red shaded feather, a *torsade* and strings of a material called *tissu d'acier*. This hat looks very well, and not so showy, in black velvet with beaded lace, jet, and white feathers. The same journal gives a very stylish bonnet of Leghorn, trimmed with mimosa and roses of ruby silk, maize-coloured satin bow and strings, this bonnet

may be made of black straw, trimmed in the same way, and is certainly more quiet looking. A very pretty mode of making a dinner dress is: Skirt of maize coloured satin with puffs, and a scarf of silk gauze and lace. Maize coloured satin, very open bodice, with *revers* of ruby coloured velvet piped with satin, and edged with lace, fastened at the waist with a satin bow over a plastron of puffed gauze and lace, short satin sleeves edged with lace, or, if long sleeves are preferred, they should be of satin, puffed at the back with gauze. We had almost forgotten to mention the rage for shaded materials, which are quite the specialities of the month. Made in silk or satin, beautifully shaded from the darkest to the lightest hue, they are used for costumes and for bonnets, or their trimmings. Three very pretty fichus were made to wear with a black velvet dress: one was of deep crimson, shaded to the palest pink, trimmed with black Spanish lace, another was of dark to pale blue, with shaded silk fringe, the third was of the deepest to the lightest orange, with white chenille and pearl gimp and fringe. Shot materials are also worn, for example, winter sky blue satin or gauze, veined or shot with silver, black or red with gold. The fashionable dresses are, *cheveux de la reine*, a golden brown, *marron glacé*, ocean green, reseda, steel grey, Velasquez red, and maize violet, the exact colour of the flower is again in fashion, and far more becoming it is than the heliotrope shade of last season. Steel is taking the place of gold and silver lace hitherto so much worn.

At a grand wedding, recently in Paris, the toilettes were exceptionally elegant. The bridal dress was of white satin, made very simply, laced down the back; on the skirt were *bouillonnés* of tulle, and a pleated flounce, over which fell a fringe of orange blossom; a large tulle veil fastened with a small wreath of orange blossom. One distinguished costume was of *marron glacé* satin, with pleatings lined with cherry coloured satin, plush mantle with satin bows, tulle capote, with pale blue feathers. A pretty young girl looked charming in a Directoire coat of tiny black and white spotted Pékin over a plastron of black velvet with a double row of steel buttons, her skirt was scalloped over flutings of black velvet, the train caught up at the back over a velvet flounce. The bonnet was of *tissu d'acier*, lined with black velvet. A great many weddings are in prospect for Easter, and the grand question is not what the bride shall wear, but what shall be the costumes for the bridesmaids, so that they may be useful after the wedding. At this season it is well to choose them with a view to afternoon *fêtes* and garden parties, when bonnets and hats should be worn, as yet it is not warm enough to wear thin muslin. The shaded silks will make very pretty and serviceable costumes. The bridesmaids should be dressed in pairs. When the principal families are in mourning, it is well for the bridesmaids to wear all white with the exception of real flowers; it is a mistake to wear grey as it looks cold in a mass, and is much lighter mourning than white. Very pretty dresses may be made with white silk skirts on which are a number of narrow crossway frills, just above the knees, over which is a Directoire coat of white stamped velvet, edged with silver fringe, collar of white and mauve violets, bonnet of the same flowers, velvet muff to match. This costume looks pretty in any pale colours; the bonnet, &c., may be of lilies of the valley, or pink hyacinths, blue forget-me-nots, or primroses, according to the colour of the dress; cashmere and plain velvet or poplin for the coat. Gaging is used, and is very effective for pliable materials, especially for artistic costumes.

Mothers are now preparing Confirmation dresses for their young daughters; care must be taken to have them made as plainly and simply as possible, as no right-minded parent would like to see her daughter dancing at a ball in the dress she had worn on so solemn an occasion. White muslinette or sateen answer this purpose, made with a kilted flounce, or better still quite plain; high bodice made full and gaged about four inches from the throat, then left loose for the same space, when it is again gaged to the waist, sleeves to match; a small soft tulle veil, not to cover the face. All jewellery and even natural flowers should be avoided.



No doubt Dryden's influence on the English language was immense. In poetry he quickened into aggressiveness the two-syllable couplet which Mr. Morris has restored to its old languid cadence. Of prose he was emphatically the father, soon dropping what he had borrowed from the French, and creating a style fit to be "the instrument of the average purpose." Milton, and Jeremy Taylor, and Bunyan, and such like stand alone; Dryden formed a school; Addison, for instance, who wrote the preface to his *Georgics*, was his pupil. But even "glorious John" may be praised too indiscriminately; and Mr. Saintsbury, in his "Dryden," the new number of "English Men of Letters" (Macmillan), praises him all round—the stanzas on Cromwell, ay, even the school-boy verses on a schoolfellow's death, as well as the "Hind and Panther." It was well to point out the bitter unfairness of Macaulay, who, as usual, carried his Whig partisanship into the study. It was quite right to expose the very slight grounds on which Mr. Green calls Dryden "a libertine, whose marriage with a woman yet more dissolute than himself only gave a new spur to his debaucheries." But is it not reckless to say that no one was ever better qualified than Dryden to translate Lucretius, and to speak of the rendering of *Aeneas* descent into hell—surely inadequate, even when we remember that every age has its own requirements in translation—as a version which has not many superiors? As to Dryden's honesty, he came of a Puritan stock, and Mr. Saintsbury thinks Puritan cruelties—the butchery of Dr. Hudson at Woodcroft in his own county, and the hideous blood-bath of the Irishwomen after Naseby—may have led him to the other side. We cannot believe that his not having made a third change when James II. was driven out proves him to have always been equally disinterested. No doubt the current of his life drew him away from family associations. A playwright could hardly have remained a Puritan; and, even had he been a profigate, there was in that age no necessary connection between profligacy and religious insincerity. In the *Religio laici*, with its yearning after infallibility,—

Such an omniscient Church we wish indeed;
Twere worth both Testaments, cast in the Creed,

—is clearly foreshadowed the change which Mr. Saintsbury admits was "helped by a sense that he was about to be on the winning side." It is needless to say that this admission by hinting that Macaulay would have taken the Tory side had it offered an equal chance of distinction and profit. Of Dryden apart from his works there is singularly little to tell; nor does Mr. Saintsbury try to picture the times in which he stands forth as a representative man. He gives a careful estimate of his works, proving him to be, if not one of our greatest writers, certainly "one who (as he says of himself) did his best to improve the language," and succeeded. We wish he had done more than glance at a very important matter, the true genesis of the English play in rhymed heroics, so wrongly spoken of as a mere imitation of the French.

Too old to enter the army from Oxford, the author of "Through the Ranks to a Commission" (Macmillan), was asked at Aldershot: "Why don't you, who are so fond of soldiering, enlist?" He was then Lieutenant of volunteers; and, after four months' consideration, he did enlist, and worked his way for sixteen months without favour save what his good conduct entitled him to. It was understood that

he was to have his commission provided he beat the men at their own trade. Being a soldier born, he beat them easily, accepting with great good humour the discomforts of his position as a private, and profiting so much by his experience that one feels all officers would be the better for a few months in the ranks, if only they could be trusted to act with our author's kindly discretion. It is the English custom to decry the army; but his experience is that things are far better than we fancy. In the matter of bad language, for instance, sailors are far worse than even the worst recruits. School and going-to-bed-time were the greatest annoyances. A pass seems easily within the reach of any steady man; and, be it remarked, none but a very steady man can get on in the army. Our author saw a fair amount of society while at Portsmouth, and had the manliness to wear his own sergeant's uniform. His remarks about saving pay ought to be impressed on every rank and file man; and what he says of the Army Reserve pay and of the unfairness of grumbling at "the miserable pittance" allowed on recall, when the 97, a year received while in reserve has been squandered, is full of plain common sense. The narrative, for the genuineness of which the publishers vouch, is most interesting throughout; but its title must not lead us to think that what the author has done any man may do; the moral of the book is distinctly the other way; it's no use enlisting with the promise of a commission unless you have powerful friends to push your case at head-quarters. As for an ordinary sergeant's chance of rising, he would seldom be happy if he did. In his own rank he has very good times; the description of the sergeants' mess is quite appetising, and the line between them and the men is hard and fast. Indeed our author advises "failures" for Civil Service examinations to enlist with a view to being sergeants. The position is honourable and responsible; and it ought to be made yet more honourable and attractive, for with short service there is all the greater need of sergeants and corporals who understand their duties. Our author suggests that a certain number of years' good service might be rewarded with a Government situation; on the other hand he thinks flogging the best, if not the only, means of dealing with very black sheep. Officers, even those of long standing, may learn much from a book which is so pleasantly written that the non-professional reader is sure to go through it from beginning to end.

Had "John Gilpin, a Solar Myth," been published when Laura Elizabeth Poor compiled "Sanskrit and Its Kindred Languages" (Kegan Paul and Co.), that lady might have seen fit to reconsider her verdict that gods, and demigods, and heroes of mediæval ballads (Robin Hood among them), and of nursery tales, are all different forms of the same luminary, and that Peeping Tom of Coventry is the wind. The book bristles with small errors; mankind, for instance, is divided into four races, the inhabitants of Africa, except the Egyptians, being wholly ignored, while the Mongolians are placed in India, and Turanian is used where, from what we read afterwards about Persian literature, we see that Allophylian is meant. It is nonsense to say that "the dark-skinned Hindoo is as much our brother as the fair-haired Norwegian." His dark skin comes mainly from the mixture of strange, i.e., Dravidian blood. "Gautama was the tribe of his clan" is, we presume, a misprint; Siegfried and Sigurd are spoken of as different persons; and M. de Villemarqué's Breton ballads (of which Tom Taylor's translation is given without acknowledgment) are unhesitatingly received as authentic. The errors, however, are small; the amount of information is large, and on the whole well arranged; and Sanskrit, which Sir W. Jones believed to be an imposture, is put in its right place. The most interesting chapter is that on "Medieval Hymns and Ballads," the former the subjective, the latter the objective, voice of the Middle Ages. But the whole book will well repay reading, if only to show what higher education is doing for women; and, being suggestive and not merely compendium-like, it will lead its readers to look up the subject for themselves.

Mr. F. Hitchman's "Eighteenth Century Studies" (Sampson Low and Co.) is a sample of magazine history of the better kind. Such history need not be superficial, though it has not the usual historical apparatus of notes and quotations; nor need it be "slashing," though of course it is fitter than regular history for the expression of personal opinion. Lord Beaconsfield's biographer steers fairly clear of both these faults. He finds good and bad on both sides; believing Wilkes to have been unfairly blamed for beginning life, like everybody else, as a candidate for place; scolding Dr. Johnson for his pamphlet in defence of Wilkes' imprisonment; and yet saying very hard things of those other Liberals, Priestley and Darwin. On the former he is specially severe. He had himself to thank, we are told, for the Birmingham riot; his style is that of a schoolmaster to an obstinate pupil; he "stumbled upon" some important chemical discoveries in the course of desultory experiments. Priestley was undoubtedly sincere; and his offensive violence was due to the circumstances of his bringing up. His early life throws a strange light on the sectarian education of the day. Fancy students having to subscribe every six months to ten fearfully stringent Calvinist articles! Mr. Hitchman on Erasmus Darwin is disappointing. Instead of some comparison between the views of grandfather and grandson, he gives us nothing but a reference to the well-known theory that the first insects were the anthers of flowers, which somehow loosed themselves from the plant, and a brief quotation from Herr Krause's monograph. Day, the author of "Little Jack" and "Sandford and Merton," fares better at Mr. Hitchman's hands; as also does Richard Cumberland, whose "Observers," we are told, are largely quarried by writers of "padding." "The Cook's Oracle" is so amusing that it would float a dull book, and Mr. Hitchman is never dull; even when he quotes a passage from Churchill's "Prophecy of Famine" as the finest bit of English satirical poetry ever written, we laugh, though we certainly don't agree with him. His estimate of John Wesley deserves careful study. That the "class-meeting" has all the evils of the confessional without its advantages is no new opinion, but it has seldom been more forcibly maintained than in these pages.

What possible purpose can Dr. Forbes Winslow expect to serve by heaping together in "Fasting and Feeding Psychologically Considered" (Baillière) a farrago of old stories, newspaper-cuttings, travellers' tales, and quotations from Dr. Mason Good? The book is so carelessly written that two paragraphs from the "Cyclopaedia of Practical Medicine," given on page 22, reappear two pages later; and that "Oxford Cyclopaedia," "Médecine légale," &c., are usually thought explicit enough in the way of reference. Does Dr. Winslow believe that the old inhabitants of Virginia lived over 200 years, those in Florida actually reaching 350; and that *dates* in Virgil's account of Dido's banquet means "coarse fare?"

Dr. Kiepert's Atlases have long been so justly prized that his "Manual of Ancient Geography" (Macmillan) will be welcome both to teachers and students. This "historical and physical commentary on the Atlases" has already been a storehouse for annotators; so that most of us know, for instance, from other sources that French towns preserve the name not of the Gallo-Roman town but of the Gallic tribe; and that "Caucasian" is wrongly used as synonymous with Indo-European, seeing that the tribes of the Caucasus are as non-Aryan in speech as the Basques. Ancient geography is not what it was in Dr. Butler's day; and it is, of course, best that the new and true notions should be acquired systematically; but though no one could write a companion to an Atlas so well as its maker, we are not quite satisfied that English boys should use German books. The best translation is often obscure; thus Dr. Kiepert or his translator fails to show with which of the great groups of men the negro ought to be classed. "Anterior Asia," again, is clumsy, though of course it explains itself.

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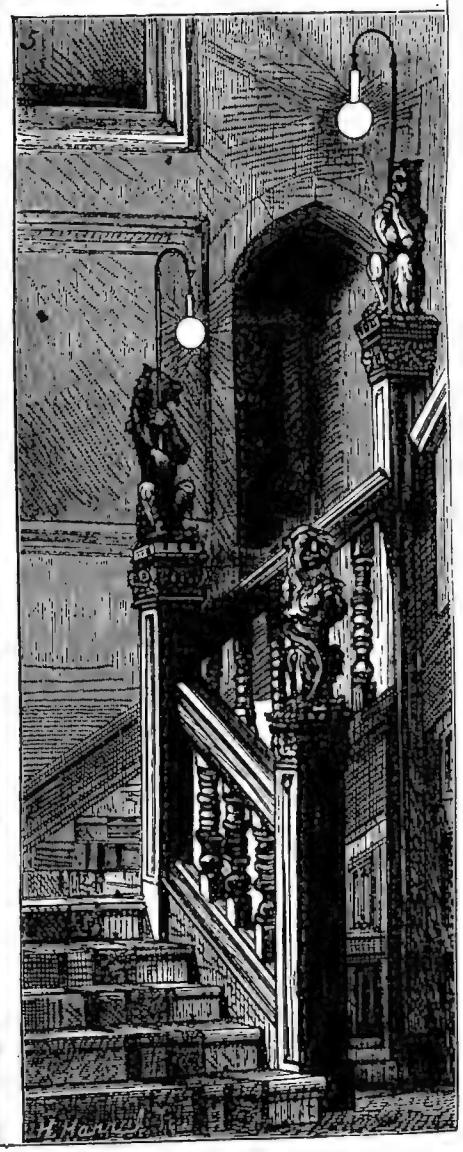
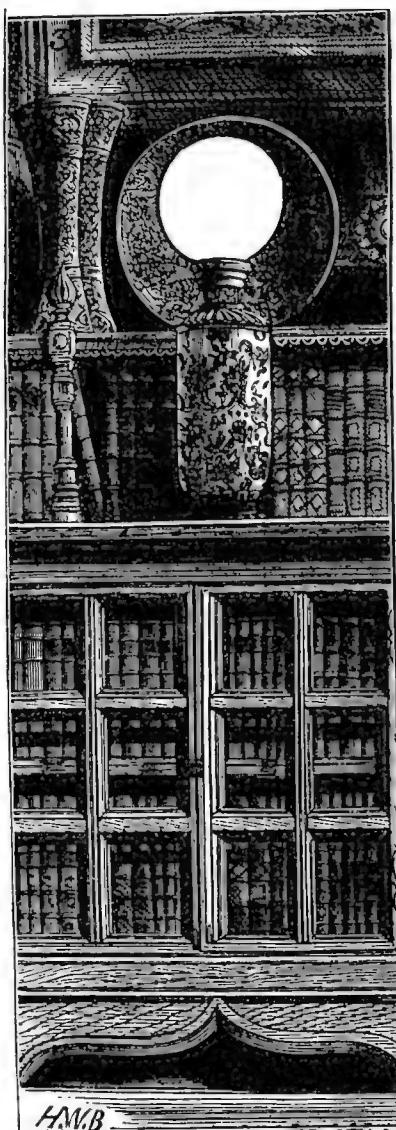
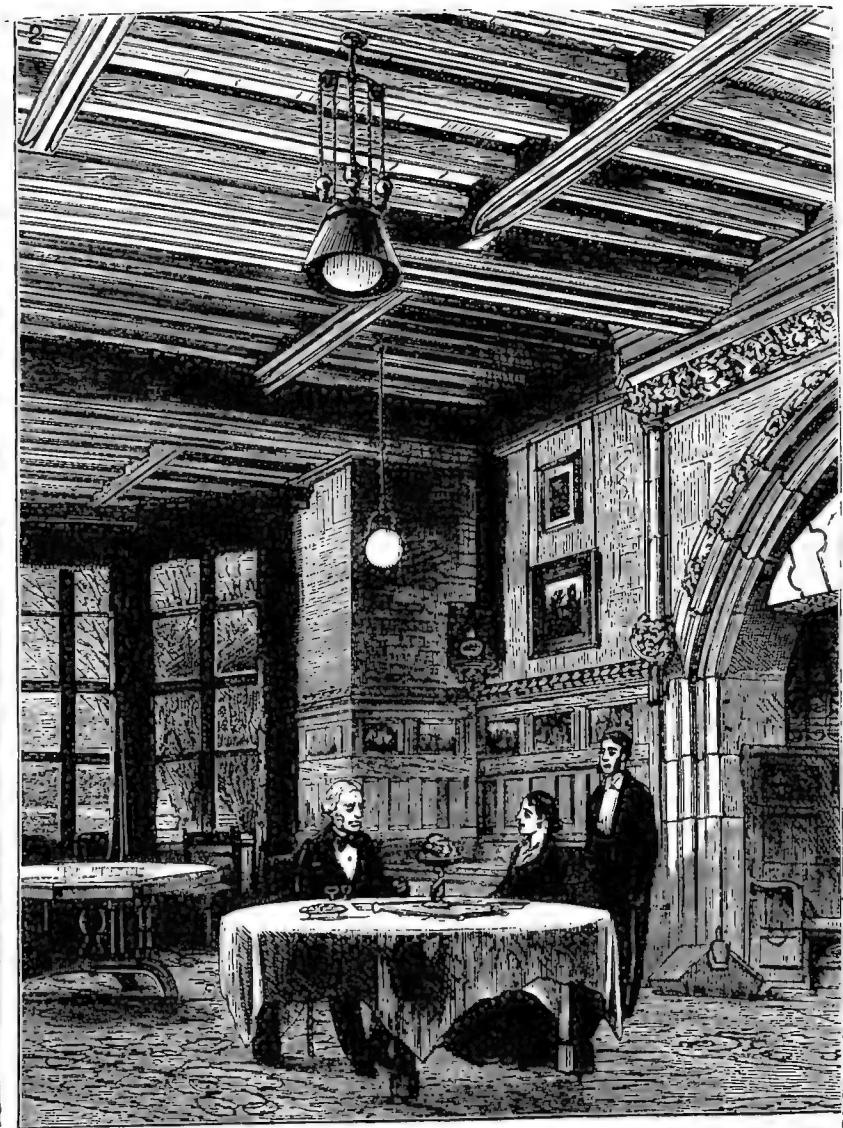
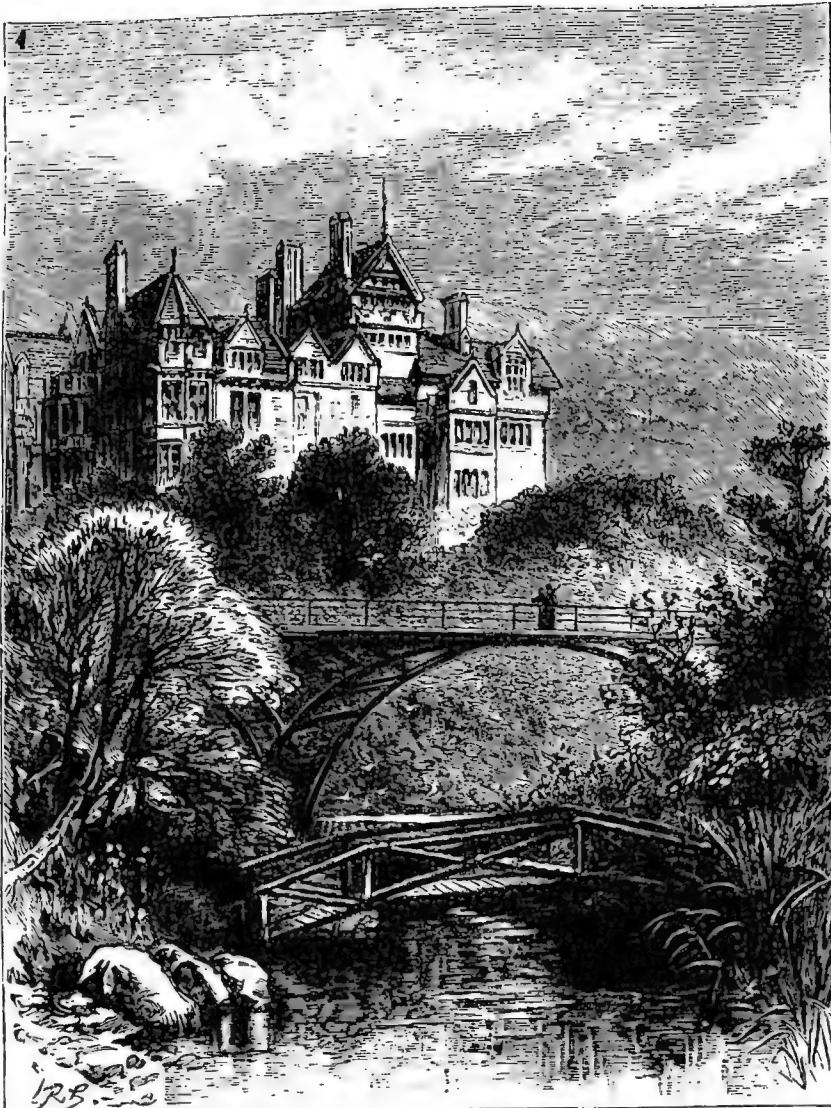
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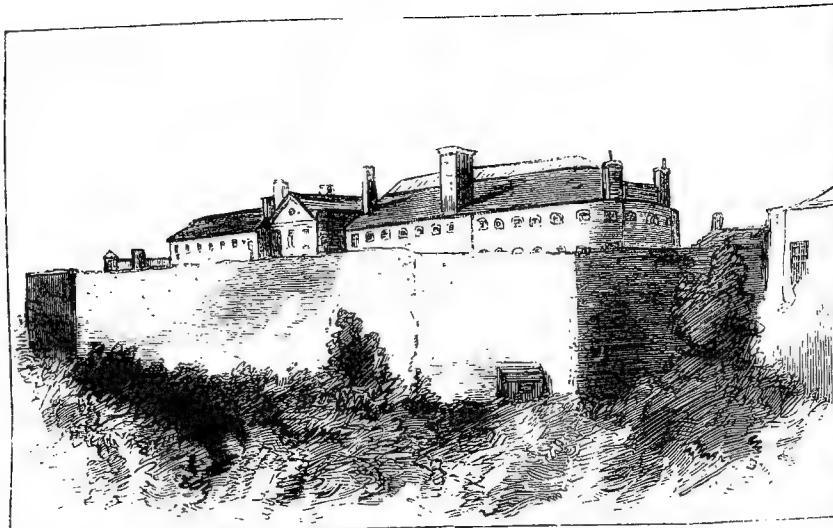
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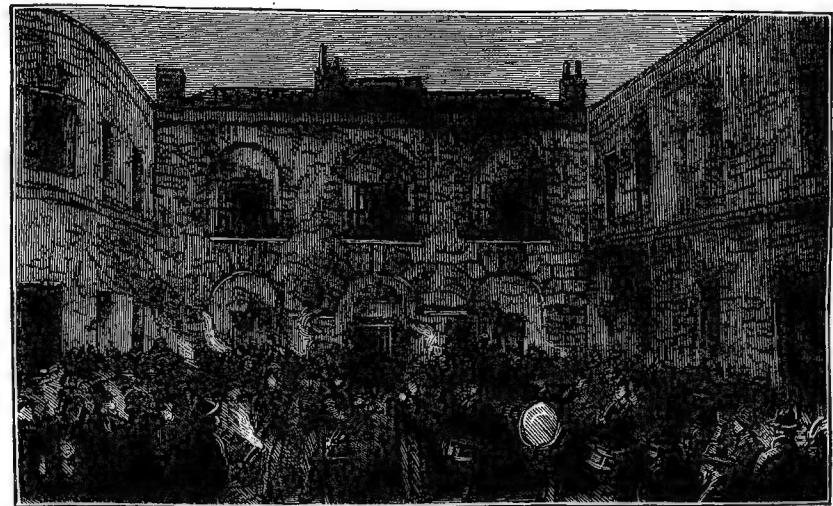
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THE RECENT GREAT SNOWSTORM IN SCOTLAND—SCENES ON THE HIGHLAND RAILWAY

Such a measure would steady the value of labour, prevent many farms going out of tillage because the farmer would know the worst he had to fear regarding price, and put some stop to England's property being dissipated for the good of others." The italics are ours, and mark what seems to us the one strong point of the letter. Our correspondent fails to see what an intolerable trouble the constantly shifting duty under 50s. would be. Were any such proposal as he suggests practicable, it would furthermore lead to endless speculation, holding and withholding, "bullying and bearing." It would be far from ending price fluctuation.

LAND IN LINCOLNSHIRE.—A freehold farm at Long Hedges, near Boston, has recently been sold by auction. Of an area of fifty-four acres it was just one of those small holdings, through which, according to certain theorists our English agriculture, is to be regenerated. It did not find many competing buyers, however, but was knocked down at 2,650/-, being 3,150/- under the price at which it was purchased five years ago, and 850/- under the total amount of the mortgages upon it. A Liberal Land Company is being established for the purpose of buying small estates and breaking them up into small farms. If the company choose Lincolnshire for their field of operations, the sense of worthy motives will probably have to compensate the shareholders for want of dividends. The value of land in Suffolk, Norfolk, Leicestershire, and Nottinghamshire is nearly as depressed as in Lincolnshire.

WASTE LANDS IN IRELAND.—It is rumoured that the Government intend purchasing under compulsory powers, to be for that purpose obtained, a million acres of the best reclaimable waste lands in Ireland, upon which a considerable sum will be expended, and the lands then portioned out into thirty-acre farms. There will not, it is apprehended, be any difficulty in obtaining tenants.

MARCH TRADE IN RURAL PRODUCE.—Wheat has increased in demand, especially the drier and better sorts. Prices have advanced about 2s. per quarter, and farmers have disposed of fair quantities at this improved rate. There was a less active feeling at the close than in the middle of the month. Barley and oats have not been in much request except for seed. Of barley fine samples have been scarce, yet prices have not ranged high. Peas and beans have been a very quiet trade. For hops demand has slackened, and with indifferent supplies on offer sales have been small at previous rates. Cheese has advanced a little in value, and there is also an improved inquiry. Eggs seem as plentiful as in other years at this season. Prices are very moderate. Fowls, of course, are dear.

ENGLISH AND FOREIGN CATTLE.—Mr. Chaplin's motion to prohibit live meat importations from infected countries has been rejected, but by a comparatively small majority. Liberals having specialist knowledge, such as Mr. Duckham and Mr. Gurdon and a few others, voted for the motion, though Mr. James Howard supported the Government. The motion was attacked as an attempt to restrict the meat supply of the country, but it is only fair to Mr. Chaplin to say that he entirely repudiates this, and believes the encouragement afforded to English stock-keeping would fully balance the diminution of the import trade. Large figures are involved on either side; but if we remember that one-fifth of an import trade, bringing in 8,000,000/-, would probably be stopped by Mr. Chaplin, we must also note that since last October foot-and-mouth disease has cost English farmers at least 1,500,000/-, and that, but for live meat importation from infected countries, the outbreak would certainly not have occurred.

ROOKS AND WIREWORMS.—The Rev. T. H. Waller, of Woodbridge, has observed that rooks attack mangolds with flagged leaves, observation or instinct having shown them that wireworms—the rooks' food—are usually the cause of the leaves flagging.

OUND AGRICULTURAL WORK is still done in England, whatever alarmists may say. Ploughing matches, hedge-cutting competitions, thatching competitions, prizes for drainage all bring out instances of thorough work well done. The number of young men who come forward in these contests is not satisfactory, but the fact is the loafing, factious, discontented spirit which the so-called friends of the agricultural labourer have been doing their best to develop, is alien to the English character, and however deplorable may be the temporary results of agitations and of strikes, there is ever a steady natural reaction towards sound work.



THE NEW JUDGE.—Mr. Edward Ebenezer Kay, Q.C., a nephew of the late Sir J. P. Kay-Shuttleworth, has been appointed a Judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice, in succession to Vice-Chancellor Malins, who lately resigned.

THE LAWSON v. LABOUCHERE trial has ended as most people anticipated, in the disagreement and consequent dismissal of the jury without a verdict. Lord Coleridge delicately hinting that whether the whole thing should be gone over again depended on the good sense of the parties. One of the most noteworthy portions of his lordship's summing up was his remarks on the prosecution of Mr. Wyman as well as Mr. Labouchere. He said, "it did not appear to me that Sir H. Giffard succeeded in showing that it was right to indict the printer, and the object of it is very difficult to comprehend, for Mr. Wyman is only the printer of the paper; and though in some cases, where the writer is unknown, or the proprietor refuses to come forward, the action or indictment is against the printer only, yet where the proprietor comes forward and admits that he is the editor, it does not seem clear why the printer should be prosecuted."

ANOTHER LIBEL CASE.—"Chamberlain v. Barnwell" has just been disposed of in the Queen's Bench Division by Mr. Justice Field and a special jury. The hearing, which lasted fifteen days, was the second trial of an action brought by one clergyman against another in respect of two letters which contained imputations of the grossest immorality. The first trial in February, 1879, resulted in a verdict for the plaintiff, with 50/- damages. This was set aside by the Divisional Court, a new trial being ultimately ordered by the Court of Appeal. On Monday a verdict was again given for the plaintiff, with 3,000/- damages.

MR. BRADLAUGH'S APPEAL on Thursday came before Lord Justices Bramwell, Bagallay, and Lush, who were unanimous in their judgment that he was not entitled to affirm, or to declare, in place of taking an oath; and also that the action was maintainable by the plaintiff. Lord Justice Bramwell, in delivering judgment, said that he thought it "as plain a case as ever came before a court of justice."

THE EVELYN ESTATES.—The action brought by Lady Mary Evelyn to establish her claim to large estates in Kent and Surrey has been withdrawn by consent, she withdrawing all the charges and imputations against the defendants, John Evelyn and Edwin Boscowen Evelyn, upon whose supposed illegitimacy her claim rested.

THE SPIRITUALIST CASE.—The trial of Mrs. Fletcher for defrauding Mrs. Hart-Davies of 10,000/- worth of jewellery will commence on Monday, before Mr. Justice Hawkins. She will be tried alone, as Mr. Fletcher and Captain Morton, who were included with her in the indictment, are stated to have absconded.

A BREACH OF PROMISE action has just been brought by the daughter of a marble merchant against a dramatic author named Leon de Garden, who during their courtship appears to have been in such distressed circumstances that he was continually selling his last shirt to obtain food, but who has since got sufficiently well off to marry another lady. The jury awarded 300/- damages, in addition to 35/- which the faithless swain had borrowed of the plaintiff, and Mr. Justice Stephen sententiously remarked that he hoped she might get the money.

THE REV. T. H. TWIST, Vicar of St. Michael's, Derby, and Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Lichfield, has been committed for trial for illegally detaining two telegrams sent from London to the local superintendent of police. He stated that he intercepted the telegrams to frighten a lady who had grievously wronged him for years.

LIFE INSURANCE.—At Stafford a short time ago the widow of a man who while intoxicated had met with a fatal accident sued the Imperial Union Accident Assurance Company for 1,000/-, the amount for which he had insured. The company's reply was that the policy contained a clause making it void if the insured became intemperate. The jury gave a verdict for the widow, and the company's application for a new trial was on Saturday dismissed by Mr. Justice Denman on the ground that they could not take advantage of the condition in the policy if the man was already intemperate at the time he insured his life.

THE CHATHAM MURDERER has not yet been discovered. The man who gave himself up at Leamington, alleging that he had committed the crime, has been dismissed from custody, inquiries having established the fact that he had nothing to do with it.

PENAL SERVITUDE FOR LIFE is the sentence passed upon Charles Williams, the burglar who recently shot at several people in the Cromwell Road, Kensington. In his defence he declared that he had thrown away his life so that others might get the reward, and that he could if he chose bring twenty witnesses to prove an *alibi*. When sentence had been passed he remarked, "Thank you, my lord, I am very much obliged to you. My life won't last above three days."



THE TURF.—The supremely wretched weather which accompanied the Lincoln Meeting attached itself later in the week to that of Liverpool, and the Grand National day on Friday the 27th was as bitter a day as almost any experienced on the cold Aintree Plains. The sport, however, was pretty well up to the standard, and was opened by Strathblane, one of the Lincoln Handicap starters, who made no show in the race, winning the Prince of Wales's Cup, though little fancied for it. Beauchamp II., belonging to the Irish division, followed up his recent successes, and took the big Handicap Hurdle Race with 12 st. 2 lbs. on his back, thus showing that as a four-year-old he is little if at all behind our best timber-toppers, weight for age. Sir G. Chetwynd's Belle Lurette, who won the chief Two Year Old Stake at Lincoln, had to succumb to Mr. Rothschild's Bulbul in the Molyneux Stakes, but in neither animal have we seen probably a first-class youngster. A tamer Grand National has hardly ever been experienced. There was comparatively little interest felt in it beforehand, and thirteen starters, the smallest field but one since the year 1840, was but a poor dish to set before the company, many of whom must have felt ashamed at the poor sample of steeple-chase horses England can now show at its best. Before the start, Liberator, who has so often traversed the course well, and won the race three years ago, was deposed from his position as first favourite, and another Irish horse, who ran well last year, Woodbrook, reigned in his stead, starting in about equal demand with Mr. Rothschild's Thornfield at 11 to 2. Liberator at first took the lead, but, after going fairly well for some distance, refused one fence and slipped up at another, the first fall we believe he ever had in a race during his career, and his condition generally was such as to prevent his winning. Woodbrook was prominent throughout the contest, and jumping first on to the racecourse won with great ease, old Regal, who won in 1876, and has taken part in the race on each occasion since, being second, and Thornfield third. If all goes well we shall hear of this animal, as also of New Glasgow and The Scot, who ran well, for next year's contest. The winner was ridden by Mr. T. Beasley, who was on the back of Empress, last year's victrix, and thus Irishmen, who had better follow steeple-chasing than Land Leaguers, have won the race for three years in succession. The addition of Saturday to the meeting was a mistake, and deserved the ill-success which attended it, as everybody connected with racing hates having to attend it on that day or on a Monday, desiring very reasonably a clear day on either side of Sunday. The only race of the slightest interest was that for the Spring Cup, for which Lord Droghead's Philammon, who ran very well over this course last autumn, was made favourite, and easily beat seven others, of whom another Lincoln horse, Invader, was second. Thus the Irish division made another good score, and finished the meeting by taking the Hunt Steeplechase with Seaman. This week there has been abundance of miscellaneous racing, but none of any great importance. At Croydon, Sir John Astley, who is one of those plucky sportsmen to whom Fortune has been rather niggard of her favours, scored the Grand Handicap Hurdle Race on the first day with Albania, a very useful mare over hurdles, as she showed herself by winning both at Lincoln and Liverpool last week. Old Kineton, who is evidently one of the evergreens, won the Welter Handicap, the notorious Victor Chief being among the beaten ones, and Resin the Bow, a not inaptly named son of Paganini, took the Spring Two Year Old Plate, and is evidently a useful youngster. On the second day the Surrey Open Handicap attracted a Grand National runner in Cross Question, who was made first favourite, and beat four others.—The Lincoln winner, Buchanan, holds his place as first favourite for the City and Suburban, while Prestonpans and Bend Or are next in demand. St. Louis heads both the Two Thousand and Derby lists.

COURSES.—The new venture at High Gosforth Park (Newcastle) was well supported both by owners of dogs and the general public, many celebrities both canine and human putting in an appearance. The Gosforth Gold Cup, the chief prize of the meeting, was won by Mr. Darlington's Marshal Mac Mahon, whose actual owner, Mr. J. Hinks, ran his well-known Plunger, Free Flag running up and improving on his recent Waterloo form. The Killingworth Stakes fell to Mr. Osborne's Wrestler, and the Burradon to Mr. Milburn's Countess.

FOOTBALL.—The last match but one in the Association Challenge Cup was played at Kennington Oval on Saturday last before a large muster of lovers of the game, anxious to witness the tussle between the Old Carthusians and the famous Darwen team. There was first-rate play on both sides, but the final score was four goals to one in favour of the Old Charterhouse boys; and thus Londoners for the second time have seen the once almost invincible Darwenians defeated. The Old Carthusians will now have to meet the Old Etonians for the final game on the 9th inst.—In a Rugby Union Match at Blackheath the Nomads rather unexpectedly beat the "Natives" by a goal to two ties.

AQUATICS.—Oxford has now joined Cambridge on the London water, but their *dibut* on Monday hardly pleased the cognoscenti. Still odds at almost 2 to 1 are laid on them against Cambridge.

THE NATION'S DRINK BILL FOR 1880.—Only that figures are sometimes found to be less trustworthy than facts the teetotal interest might claim to have scored a great victory in the past year. According to Mr. Hoyle, in *The Times*, it seems that there was expended in alcoholic stimulant throughout the kingdom a less sum by 5,864,588/- than in the year preceding. Notwithstanding this falling off, however, the enormous sum of a hundred and twenty-two millions was somehow or other melted into potables, and swallowed in the shape of more or less "modest quenchers," as Mr. Swiveller puts it. Five millions, however, represents a large amount of spirituous and malt liquor, and it would be exceedingly gratifying could we feel sure that the people are by so much resolutely and designedly the sober. Unfortunately, however, this may not be so. Experience shows us that the amount spent in the country in drink depends pretty much on the means of the community at large. As, for example, in 1876, a year of unprecedented prosperity, the wine merchants and publicans had a comfortable time of it; "the nation's drink bill" reaching the prodigious figure of 147,288,760/. But the year following, when the working man had ceased to command "a fancy price" for his skill and labour, there was a drop of more than five millions, and the decrease has continued ever since. It is calculated that, according to last year's return, an average of 3/- each for every man, woman, and child was spent in intoxicating liquors, or for each separate family 15/. In 1876 this liberal allowance must have been nearly doubled. And if it be true that nearly all the crime of the kingdom arises from drink, the criminal statistics of the year in question should bear grim witness to the truth of the assertion. If "the ups and downs of our drinking expenditure simply represents the ups and downs of prosperity, employment, and wages," it becomes a question whether we are not best off when we have little to spend.

THE DAHOMEAN "GRAND CUSTOM."—The King of Dahomey, like his immediate predecessor, is not at all averse to a Christian missionary or two labouring in the good cause amongst his people, but His Majesty himself, according to the most recent accounts, is as far as ever from being converted to the ways of humanity and loving kindness. The horrible institution known as the Grand Custom is still practised in his country, and seemingly without any abatement of its historical barbarity and bloodshed. The said "Custom" is of annual occurrence, and is in honour of the King's ancestors, who are believed, though long since departed from this life, to take an active, though ghostly, interest in the affairs of the throne. In a letter, hailing from Old Calabar, and dated the 13th of February of the present year, the Rev. J. Melum, a missionary, informs us that he was shortly before present at the Custom held at Abomey, and that several hundred human beings were sacrificed on the occasion. The present king is named Gelele, and Mr. Melum's business with the royal man-slaughterer was the re-establishment of the Mission House at Whydah. One feature of the Grand Custom is a procession of the king's wealth. Thirty years ago Commander Forbes was at the pains to jot down the chief items of "wealth" carried by the processionists, and amongst them figure fifty-two women carrying white vases, ten carrying jewels and ornaments under glass shades, others carrying a washing pan, a skull in a copper pan, calabashes full of skulls, a toilette table and glass; the King's washing tub, borne by thirty guards; a drum trimmed with skulls; an umbrella ornamented with eighty jaw-bones, &c. The victims of sacrifice are chiefly malefactors and prisoners taken in war, and are cast down from a high platform dead or alive amongst the armed and howling mob below. His Majesty diversifies the amusement by "scrambling" amongst his faithful subjects cowries, tobacco, cloth, and kegs of rum, which are broached on the spot, and no doubt tend to keep up excitement. In *The Times* of September, 1862, Commander Parry, of H.M.S. *Griffin*, gives a graphic account of a "Custom." Something went wrong, and the King was dissatisfied with the proceedings, so much so that he thought it expedient to send an apology on the subject to the ghost of his grandfather. Therefore calling to him three trustworthy chiefs of his army, he presented each with a bottle of rum and a head of cowries, and instantly afterwards had their heads chopped off, so that they might depart in good humour to interview His Majesty's shady relative.

IRISH EMIGRANTS.—It is somewhat remarkable that, despite the promises held out to the labouring classes of Ireland by Land Leaguers and others that, thanks to their efforts, unprecedented prosperity would speedily be theirs, considerably more than the average number thought fit to try their fortune elsewhere rather than remain to share in the promised milk and honey. In the year 1880 the number of emigrants that left Irish ports was 95,857, being an increase of more than 48,000 as compared with '79. Excepting 300, the 95,000 and odd were all natives of Ireland, 16,000 were from Leinster, 35,000 from Munster, 28,000 from Ulster, and 20,500 from Connaught. Of the full total, 81,968 went to foreign countries and 13,549 came to Great Britain. Compared with the four previous years, commencing with 1876—in which year the destinations of Irish emigrants were first registered—the United States of America absorbed in 1880, 74,636, as against an average of 16,246. On the other hand, as regards the emigration of Irish men and women to Great Britain, there was in the past year a remarkable falling off, the average for the four previous years being for England and Wales nearly 10,000, and 7,900 for Scotland, whereas last year only 7,700 arrived at the former place, with 5,800 for Scotland. Of the 50,000 males who emigrated from Ireland during the year 36,688 were returned as "labourers."

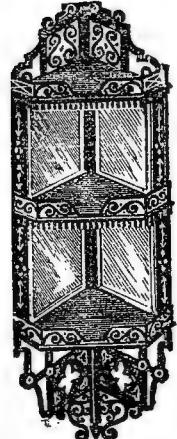
A PRIMITIVE CENSUS TAKING.—In strange contrast with the modern elaborate Census Schedule—which in a complete form represents in brief a family history—and with the army of census takers of fifty thousand being necessary to the prompt and accurate carrying out of the prodigious undertaking, is the simple "bundle of sticks" system adopted by certain tribes of American Indians, when at the suggestion of the United States' Statistical Department the number of their people was ascertained and reported. There were difficulties in the way that would have daunted anybody but an American organiser. The Piute Indians were ignorant of civilised caligraphy, as of the Church Catechism, and a simple order to set down on the paper every one who on a certain night slept in each wigwam would have resulted in a set of puzzling portraits of each member of the Indian household, which might have amused, but would have done little towards enlightening the enumerators. A method more intelligible was adopted. Large sheets of white paper were distributed amongst the sachems of the villages, with instructions that what was expected of the head of each Piute household was that he should draw as many lines on the sheet as there were males and females—a straight line for a man, and a crooked line for a woman—the oldest people being honoured with the longest lines, the said symbols becoming shorter according to the age of the remaining members of the family, the infant in arms being, of course, the shortest of all. These sheets filled in and collected, Nunana, the chief, proceeded to translate them into a handier form. Procuring as many willow wands as there were sheets, he caused them to be carefully notched the indentation corresponding in length with those made by the wigwam fathers. In order that there might be no mistake as to the mere children of the tribe, the latter were represented by a separate bundle of slight twigs, which with the wands were forwarded to the United States authorities, and received official recognition.

APRIL 2, 1881

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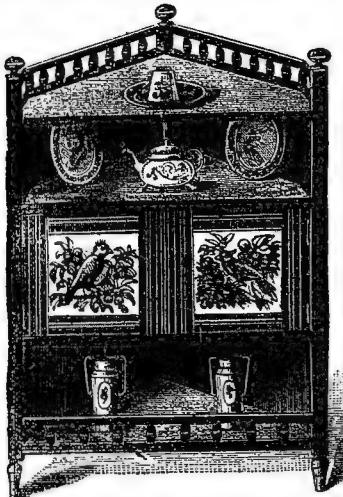
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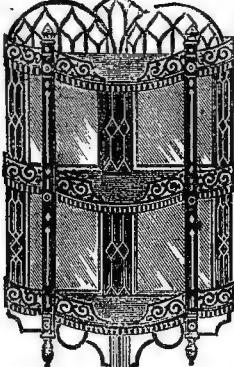
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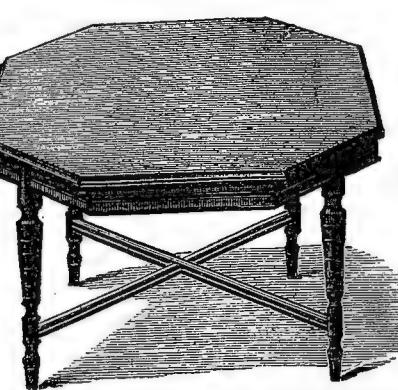
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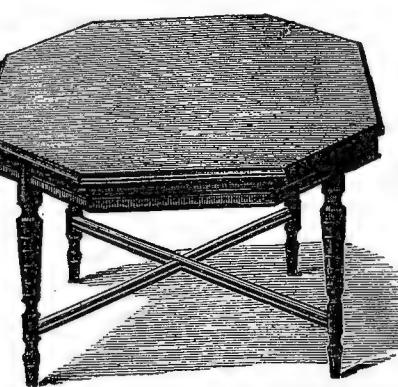
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Early English Octagonal Table, ebonized, 3 ft. 6 in. diameter, £3 3s.

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